

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, March 23, 2013

The Least Worst Option



Cyprus to present revised bailout package to creditors

Small bondholders who say they suffered major losses during Greece's massive public debt write-off last year, protest outside Greece's Parliament in Athens, Friday, March 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

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Obama urges action against racism, anti-Semitism

Jodi Rudoren
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JERUSALEM — After rekindling the eternal flame and laying a wreath at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, a solemn President Barack Obama spoke Friday of a collective "obligation not just to bear witness but to act" against racism "and especially anti-Semitism" as he wrapped up his three-day visit here with a trio of symbolic pilgrimages.

"We have the choice to ignore what happens to others or to act on behalf of others," Obama said after a tour of the museum and a brief memorial service.

"Our sons and daughters are not born to hate, they are taught to hate," he added.

The remarks were Obama's only scheduled public comments in Israel in a day filled with poignant gestures. He began by laying stones on the graves of

Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister assassinated in 1995 while on the brink of making peace. On Friday afternoon, he was to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the biblical birthplace of Jesus, before heading on to Jordan. A windstorm forced Obama to modify his travel plans to reach Bethlehem. Initially he was to fly by helicopter. Instead, he



President Barack Obama meets with Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Judeh at Queen Alia International Airport in Zizya, Jordan, March 22, 2013.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Cyprus to present revised bailout package to IMF, EU creditors

M. HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)

— Lawmakers in Cyprus approved three key bills Friday that aim to raise enough money to qualify the country for a broader bailout package and help it avoid financial ruin in mere days. A total nine bills were approved, including a key one on restructuring the country's ailing banks, which lost billions on bad Greek debt; a second on restricting financial transactions in times of crisis; and one that sets up a 'solidarity fund' into which investments and contributions will flow.

More bills to meet the total target of 5.8 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) Cyprus needs

to secure an international bailout will be brought for a vote over the weekend. They include one that imposes a tax of less than 1 percent on all bank deposits, said Averof Neophytou, deputy head of the governing DISY party.

"We are voting for the least worst option," Neophytou said in a speech.

Approval of the tax would come just days after Parliament decisively turned down a plan that would have seized up to 10 percent of people's bank deposits. Cyprus' president, Nicos Anastasiades, will travel to Brussels on Saturday to present the revised package to the country's prospective creditors, its fellow countries that use

the euro currency and the International Monetary Fund. There has been no indication yet that they will accept it.

Cyprus has been told to raise 5.8 billion euros to qualify for 10 billion euros in rescue loans from the eurozone and the IMF.

The country faces a pressing Monday deadline, when the European Central Bank has said it will stop providing emergency funding to the country's banks if a new plan is not in place.

Without the ECB's support, Cypriot banks would collapse on Tuesday, pushing the country toward bankruptcy and a potential exit from the 17-country eurozone. □

AROUND THE WORLD

U.S. tourist recovering after shark attack

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A police spokeswoman in the Bahamas said Friday a New York man is recovering after being bitten by a shark while visiting the island chain. Inspector Chrislyn Skippings says the visitor was fishing on the island of Eleuthera when he was bitten on the left leg. The 50-year-old from Rochester, New York, went to a local clinic on his own and was airlifted to a hospital in the capital of Nassau for treatment. He was listed in stable condition Friday. The attack occurred on Thursday in the Savannah Sound, where fishermen wade in several feet of water to go bone fishing. The area is known to have bull and tiger sharks.

Knife stuck in mans back for three years

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (AP) — A Canadian man was just scratching what he thought was an old itch this week when it turned out to be a knife blade that had been buried in his back for almost three years. Billy McNeely said this week it all goes back to an April, 2010, birthday party in McNeely's home town of Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories. McNeely got into a fight over an arm-wrestling contest and was stabbed five times. The doctor stitched him up but never took X-Rays. Ever since, McNeely set off metal detector and he's had a lump in his back where the knife went in. This week doctors dug out a blade measuring about 2.7 inches.

10 dead, 500 hurt in Bangladesh tornado

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — An unexpected tornado ripped through 20 villages in eastern Bangladesh on Friday, killing 10 people and injuring about 500 others, earliest reports said. The Prothom Alo newspaper said the 15-minute storm destroyed many homes and shops and uprooted large numbers of trees in Brahmanbaria district. It quoted officials as saying one child was among the 10 confirmed dead. The storm cut most transportation, including train service in the area, it said. Villagers and emergency personnel took many of the injured to hospitals, news reports said. Officials could not be reached immediately for comment.

Hungary upset over German TV cartoon

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — A minute-long message on a German television station aimed at children has drawn the ire of the Hungarian government for criticism of recent changes made to the Hungarian constitution and allegations that the government only wants good press about itself. Hungary was considering appeals to German or international institutions about the animated clip "A red card for Hungary," government spokesman Ferenc Kumin said Friday. The clip on Kika, a public-service broadcaster, also says Hungary's politicians sometimes fail to respect EU laws and the country could be fined by the bloc for its transgressions.

9 dead, 90 missing in Nigeria boat crash

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — An official says a search continues after a boat carrying 128 people capsized off Nigeria this week. The head of the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency Vincent Acquah said that rescuers have found nine female bodies off the coast of the city of Calabar, with 90 passengers still missing. He said there were also men and children aboard. Acquah said the number of survivors rose to 29 Wednesday after 27 people were found further south, around the port of Oron. He said the wooden boat was going from Benin to Gabon, stopping on various ports along the way. Survivors said the captain informed passengers of a leak. □

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3 dead, including suspect, in Marine base shooting

M. BARAKAT

Associated Press

QUANTICO, Virginia (AP) — A Marine who worked at a rigorous school that tests Marines who want to become officers fatally shot two of his colleagues before killing himself in a barracks dorm room, officials said.

The three Marines — two men and a woman — were part of the staff at the officer candidates school on the sprawling Marine Corps Base Quantico outside Washington. Their relationship and whether they knew one another was not clear, though military officials described the shootings as "isolated." They did not release a motive or the identities of those slain.

Authorities were called at the Marine Corps Base Quantico outside Washington at about 10:30 p.m. local time Thursday and found one Marine dead in the Taylor Hall barracks, base commander Col. David W. Maxwell said. A second victim was found elsewhere in the barracks. The body of the gunman was also located in Taylor Hall. It wasn't immediately clear how much time passed between the killings or how far apart the bodies were

found.

Only staff for the school live in Taylor Hall, a red brick building on the base that can house about 110 Marines. The officer candidates live elsewhere. The base was put on lockdown after the first shooting and Marines and their families were told to stay inside over a loudspeaker known as the Giant Voice. The lockdown was lifted early Friday.

Officials did not say what the three Marines did at the school, which is known for its grueling 10-week program that evaluates candidates on physical stamina, intelligence and leadership. The candidates must complete obstacle courses, hikes of up to 12 miles (19 kilometers) in full combat gear and take classes on navigation and tactics that help them lead

in the field, according to the school's website.

Some are sent home. Those that do graduate become second lieutenants. Along with the U.S. Naval Academy, the school is the way most Marines become officers.

The shooting is the second

tragedy the Marine Corps has faced this week. Seven members of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force were killed Monday when a mortar shell exploded in its firing tube during an exercise at Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada. Eight others were injured.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was saddened to learn of the shooting.

"This tragedy, as well as the tragedy in Nevada earlier this week, took the lives of Marines who volunteered to serve their nation," Little said. "His heart and his prayers are with them and their families."

The sprawling Quantico base, which is 37 miles (60 kilometers) south of Washington, is also home to the FBI's training academy.

In 2010, the Quantico base was one of several targets of an ex-Marine reservist who, during five nighttime shootings, fired on military targets including the Pentagon. Yonathan Melaku, on two separate occasions, fired at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. □



An Iwo Jima Memorial tribute statue is seen at the entrance to the main gate at Quantico Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Va., Friday, March 22, 2013. A Marine killed a male and female colleague in a shooting at a base in northern Virginia before killing himself, officials said early Friday.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Senate endorses Keystone XL pipeline plan

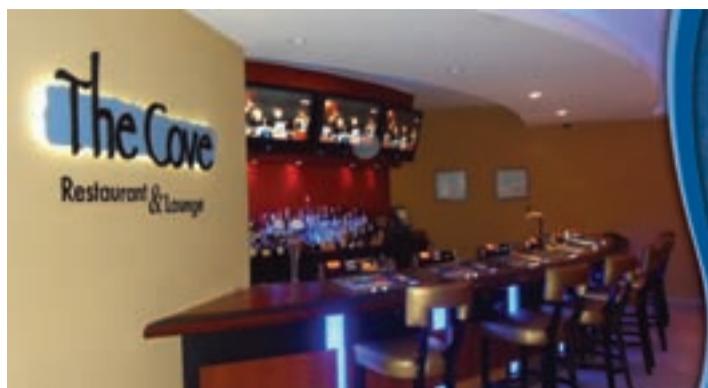
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has endorsed construction of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline that is to carry oil from Canada to Texas oil refineries. Senators voted 62-37 on Friday for the nonbinding

measure. Seventeen Democrats and all 45 Republicans voted yes.

For four years, environmentalists and others have tried to derail the project, saying extracting the oil from Alberta tar sands would

increase global warming. President Barack Obama has thwarted it twice, and Nebraska officials objected initially that the route would jeopardize ecologically sensitive lands. But the Nebraska route has

been changed, and project supporters have won more backing by arguing it would create thousands of jobs. A recent State Department report raised no major objections to the project. □



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FCC chairman Julius Genachowski announces resignation

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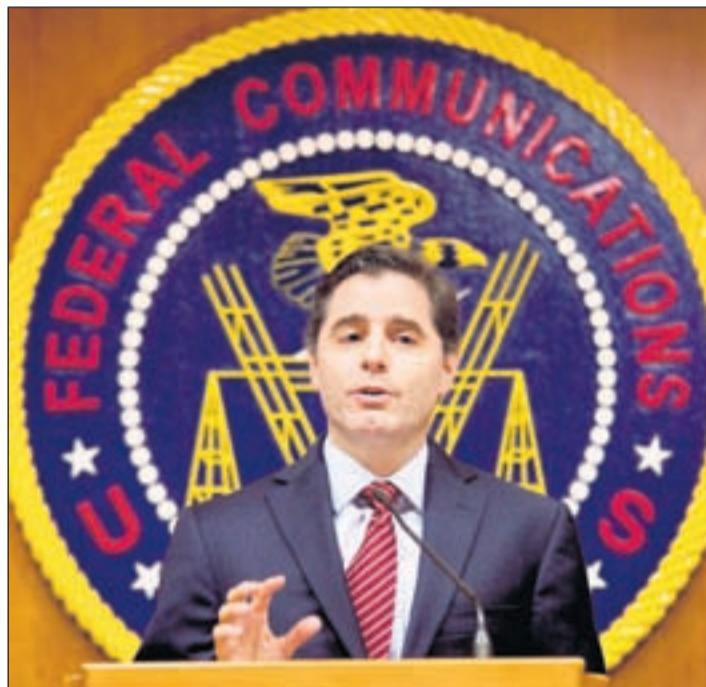
Julius Genachowski, the Federal Communications Commission chairman since June 2009, who set out ambitious plans to expand broadband Internet service throughout the country and to free up additional airwaves for sale to cellphone companies, said Friday that he would leave the commission "in the coming weeks."

No successor has been named. Genachowski's departure, on the heels of the resignation earlier this week of Robert M. McDowell, a Republican commissioner since 2006, will leave the agency with only three of five board spots filled, although Democrats will retain a 2-1 majority.

Both resignations had been widely expected since the re-election of President Barack Obama, although the timing had been in doubt because of the chairman's desire not to leave the commission with a 2-2 split between Republicans and Democrats.

Genachowski leaves a number of his highest priorities unfinished, if well under way. The FCC is in the process of drawing up an ambitious plan to make additional high-value airwaves, or spectrum, available for sale to cellphone companies for use in wireless broadband Internet service.

The plan hinges on the FCC's ability to persuade television broadcasters to give up some of their air-



Julius Genachowski, the Federal Communications Commission chairman, speaks at the commission's offices in Washington. Genachowski, who has headed the commission since 2009, announced March 22, 2013, that he will leave "in the coming weeks," though Democrats will retain a majority.

(D. Rosenbaum/The New York Times)

waves in exchange for some portion of the sale proceeds.

Most broadcasters have strongly resisted that plan, and an associated proposal to move stations that don't give up their airways to other frequencies on the electromagnetic spectrum.

That process, known as repacking, would vacate bands of airwaves by allowing television broadcast signals to be packed closer together.

"Over the past four years, we've focused the FCC on broadband, wired and wireless, working to drive economic growth and improve the lives of all Americans," Genachowski told staff members Friday, according to an agency statement.

"Today, America's broadband economy is thriving, with record-setting private investment; unparalleled innovation in networks, devices and apps; and renewed U.S. leadership around the world," he added.

Genachowski also oversaw the conversion of an \$8 billion federal program to provide telephone service to rural and low-income Americans, known as the Universal Service Fund, into one that used the same money to expand broadband Internet service.

The fund has now been renamed the Connect America Fund.

As chairman, Genachowski attracted criticism from both industry and consumer groups, although they also supported some of his actions.

Public Knowledge, a consumer group, said in a statement that the chairmanship was best characterized as "one of missed opportunities." □



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Police arrest 2 Georgia teens in baby killing

RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Georgia (AP)

— A pair of teenagers was arrested Friday and accused of fatally shooting a 13-month-old baby in the face and wounding his mother during their morning stroll through a leafy, historic neighborhood.

Sherry West had just been to the post office a few blocks from her apartment Thursday morning and was pushing her son, Antonio, in his stroller while they walked past gnarled oak trees and blooming azaleas in the coastal city of Brunswick. West said a tall, skinny teenager, accompanied by a smaller boy, asked her for money. "He asked me for money and I said I didn't have it," she told The Associated Press on Friday from her apartment, which was scattered with her son's toys and movies. "When you have a baby, you spend all your money on babies. They're expensive. And he kept asking and I just said 'I don't have it.' And he said, 'Do you want me to kill your baby?' And I said, 'No, don't kill my baby!'" One of the teens fired four shots, grazing West's ear and striking her in the leg,

before he walked around to the stroller and shot the baby in the face. Seventeen-year-old De'Marquis Elkins is charged as an adult with first-degree murder, along with a 14-year-old who was not identified because he is a juvenile, Police Chief Tobe Green said.

Police announced the arrest Friday afternoon after combing school records and canvassing neighborhoods searching for the pair. The chief said the motive was still under investigation and the weapon had not been found.

West said detectives showed her mugshots of about 24 young men. She pointed to one, saying he looked like the gunman. "After I picked him, they said they had him in custody," West said.

West said she thought the other suspect looked much younger: "That little boy did not look 14."

The slaying happened around the corner from West's apartment in the city's Old Town historic district. It's a street lined with grand Victorian homes from the late 1800s. Most have been neatly restored by their owners. Others, with faded and flaking

paint, have been divided into rental units like the apartment West shared with her son. The slain boy's father, Luis Santiago, lives

5 and how they had tried different party hats on the boy. "He's all right," Santiago told the boy's mother, trying to smile. West mourn-

said her 18-year-old son, Shaun Glassey, was killed in with a steak knife during an attack involving several other teens on a dark



Luis Santiago tries to comfort Sherry West at her apartment Friday, March 22, 2013, in Brunswick, Ga., the day after their 13-month-old son, Antonio Santiago, was shot and killed. West says she was walking her baby in his stroller when a teenage gunman demanding money shot the baby in the face and shot her in the leg.

(AP Photo/Russ Bynum)

in a house across the street. Santiago came over on Friday and scooped up an armload of his son's stuffed animals, saying he wanted to take them home with him. He talked about Antonio's first birthday on Feb. 20. The milestones that will never come, like Antonio's first day at school. "I'm always going to wonder what his first word would be," West said. It's not the mother's first loss of a child to violence. West

street corner in Gloucester County, New Jersey.

"He and some other boys were going to ambush a kid," Bernie Weisenfeld, a spokesman for the county prosecutor's office, told the AP Friday. □

US groundhog Punxsutawney Phil 'indicted' over false spring forecast

AMANDA LEE MYERS

MARK SCOLFORO

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — America's most famous groundhog might want to go back into hibernation.

Punxsutawney Phil is facing a "criminal indictment" for falsely predicting an early spring. Tradition has it that winter will end quickly if the rodent sees his shadow after emerging from his western Pennsylvania lair on Feb. 2, an annual ceremony that dates back to the 19th century and was immortalized in the Bill Murray movie "Groundhog Day."

Phil saw his shadow this year, but his prediction was dead wrong.

Spring arrived Wednesday, and temperatures are still hovering in the 30s (around -1 degrees Celsius) in much of the Northeast.

Shivering Americans are vilifying Punxsutawney Phil on social media and one prosecutor in Ohio is even filing charges.

"Punxsutawney Phil did purposely, and with prior calculation and design, cause the people to believe that spring would come early," Mike Gmoser, the prosecutor in southwestern Ohio's Butler County, wrote in an official-looking indictment. Gmoser wrote that Punxsutawney Phil is charged with misrepresentation of spring, which constitutes a

felony "against the peace and dignity of the state of Ohio."

The penalty Phil faces? Death, Gmoser said, tongue firmly in cheek. That's "very harsh," given the nature of the allegations, said Bill Deeley, president of the Punxsutawney club that organizes Groundhog Day.

Deeley said the backlash

ers. "Phree Phil!" declared one supporter on his Facebook page. "We're with you, Phil," wrote another. As for spring, there's no relief in sight from the wintry conditions. A storm moving into the region Sunday could bring between up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow, said Don Hughes, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service



Groundhog Club Co-handler Ron Ploucha holding the weather predicting groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, after the club said Phil did not see his shadow and there will be an early spring during the Groundhog Day ceremony in Punxsutawney, Pa. Authorities in still-frigid Ohio have issued an "indictment" of the fury rodent, who predicted an early spring.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

has raised fears for Punxsutawney Phil's safety and special security precautions are in place around his home, Gobbler's Knob. "Right next to where Phil stays is the police station," he said. "They've been notified and they said they will keep watching their monitors." The chubby-cheeked animal also has his defend-

in Wilmington, Ohio. The frigid temperatures and snow might be particularly hard to swallow after last spring, when the U.S. saw the warmest March in recorded history. Hughes said this spring isn't nearly the coldest on record but that the area is about 5 degrees below normal. □

Attorney: No espionage in defense secrets case

AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — An attorney for a defense contractor accused of giving military secrets to his 27-year-old Chinese girlfriend says there's no evidence that classified information was given to China or to any other foreign country.

Lawyer Birney Bervar said Friday the case is about two people in love, not espionage.

Bervar says he spoke to Benjamin Bishop's girlfriend, who has not been named by authorities.

She told him agents went

to her home last Friday and seized computers but have since returned one computer and another laptop. She hasn't been arrested.

She also told Bervar she took a polygraph test. Bervar didn't say what questions she was asked. Bervar spoke after a federal judge said he wants



Birney Bervar, attorney for defense contractor Benjamin Bishop, speaks with reporters outside U.S. District Court in Honolulu, Friday, March 22, 2013. (AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy)

to hear more arguments before deciding whether to release Bishop while he awaits trial. □

Supremacist at center of a two-state murder mystery

ANGELA K. BROWN

P. SOLOMON BANDA

Associated Press

DECATUR, Texas (AP) — A former inmate and white supremacist who may be tied to the slaying of the Colorado prisons chief is dead after a high-speed chase and shootout with Texas deputies, authorities said Friday.

Evan Spencer Ebel, 28 had a long record of convictions since 2003 for various crimes including assaulting a prison guard in 2008. He is also suspected in the killing of a pizza delivery man whose body was found Sunday.

Ebel was a member of a white supremacist prison gang called the 211s, a federal law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the case and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Colorado officials would not confirm Ebel's gang ties or say whether they had anything to do with the death of prisons director Tom Clements, who was shot to death Tuesday night after he answered his front door. But they said that, since Clements' killing, state troopers have provided extra security for Colorado government officials.

"We are at a heightened alert," said Steve Johnson of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation at a Friday news conference.

Denver police said they were "confident" Ebel was also involved in the death of the pizza man, Nathan Leon, 27.

The FBI and local officials were also beginning to examine another case that appears similar to the Clements killing — the Jan. 31 slaying of a prosecutor who was gunned down as he walked across a parking lot to the courthouse in Kaufman — about 100 miles (161 kilometers) from where Ebel crashed and got into the shootout.

Authorities have investigated whether Mark Hasse's death could be linked to

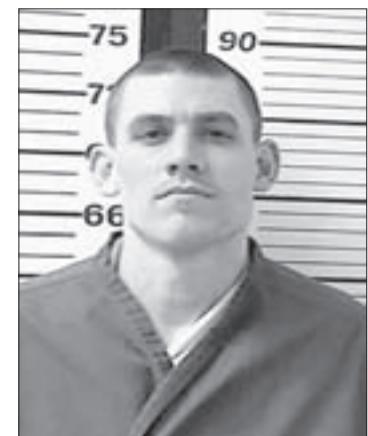


Photo shows paroled inmate Evan Spencer Ebel. Ebel, 28, the former Colorado inmate and white supremacist at the center of a two-state mystery is dead after a high-speed chase and shootout with Texas deputies March 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/Colorado DOC)

a white supremacist gang. On Friday, they said they will see if there is any connection to Clements' murder.

"This is part of routine investigative work when two crimes occur under somewhat similar circumstances," Kaufman County Lt. Justin Miller said in a statement on the look at any links with the Clements case.

Ebel's tie to Clements' killing comes from the car he drove — a black Cadillac with mismatched Colorado plates that fit the description of a vehicle spotted outside Clements' home just before the prison chief was shot.

Texas authorities spotted the car Thursday and gave chase after Ebel shot and wounded a deputy. They fatally shot him after he crashed into a semi and opened fire on his pursuers.

Ebel is not on the radar of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks extremist groups, but the center rates the gang as one of the most vicious white supremacist groups operating in the nation's prisons, comparable to the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas.

Founded in 1995 to protect white prisoners from attacks, it operates only in Colorado and has anywhere from between a couple hundred to 1,000 members, senior fellow Mark Potok said Friday. □

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Bronx officer's recording suggests race is factor in stops

JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

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NEW YORK — For years, the debate over the Police Department's use of stop-and-frisk tactics has centered on whether officers engage in racial profiling. Now, a recording suggests that, in at least one precinct, a person's skin color can be a deciding factor in who is stopped.

The way to suppress violent crime, he said, was for officers to stop, question and, if necessary, frisk "the right people at the right time, the right location." The officer, who surreptitiously recorded the conversation last month, began pressing McCormack about whom he meant by the "right people." The conversation grew heated.



New York City Police officer Pedro Serrano with his lawyer Jonathan Moore outside federal court in New York, March 21, 2013. Serrano testified on Thursday during a class-action case covering several million stop-and-frisk encounters in New York City that he believed his supervisors used the expression "the right people" to pressure officers to stop blacks and Hispanics without probable cause.

(John Marshall Mantel/The New York Times)

The recording, played Thursday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, was of a conversation between a patrol officer and his commanding officer in the 40th Precinct in the South Bronx, a violent command that recorded the highest number of police stops in the Bronx in 2011. The commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Christopher McCormack, urged the officer to be more active, emphasizing the need to conduct more street stops.

"We go out there and we summons people," McCormack said.

After an exchange about Mott Haven, a particularly crime-prone neighborhood, the inspector suggested that the police needed to conduct street stops of the people creating "the most problems" there. "The problem was, what, male blacks," McCormack said. "And I told you at roll call, and I have no problem telling you this, male blacks 14 to 20, 21."

The conversation was played on the fourth day of a class-action lawsuit covering several million stop-and-frisk encounters in the city, a police tactic that

the Bloomberg administration has embraced, citing its effectiveness in driving down gun violence. The tactic has proved divisive in many parts of the city and has become a major issue in the mayoral race. The authority of the police to use stop-and-frisk tactics is not at issue, but how the Police Department conducts these street interactions — and whether it stops blacks and Hispanics in violation of the Constitution — is the matter at hand before the judge in the case, Shira A. Scheindlin. The question of what commanders mean by "the right people"

is central to the trial.

Civil rights lawyers have long maintained that the term "right people" is police code for young black and Hispanic men, who make up an overwhelming share of those stopped. The police, on the other hand, say that they use this phrase to describe habitual lawbreakers and that by focusing on the "right people," they are trying to avoid giving tickets to the construction worker drinking a beer on his way home or the couple strolling through a park that is closed for the night.

The officer who made the

recording, Pedro Serrano, 43, testified Thursday that he believed his supervisors used the expression to pressure officers to stop blacks and Hispanics without reasonable suspicion.

He testified that he once told a person to whom he had been ordered to issue a ticket that "they should take my name down and if they sue, they could use me as a witness."

Serrano is the second Bronx police officer to take the witness stand in the trial and assert that police supervisors institute quotas that encourage officers to stop people unlawfully.

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Egyptians clash at Muslim Brotherhood strongholds

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP)—Thousands of Egyptian protesters clashed with riot police and backers of the president's Muslim Brotherhood on Friday, ransacking several offices nationwide as anger over allegations of beatings and power-grabbing boiled over into the largest and most violent demonstrations yet on the doorstep of the powerful group.

As night fell, streets surrounding the Brotherhood headquarters were littered with shattered glass, charred vehicles, stones and gloves stained with blood. The number of injured reached nearly 100 from the two sides.

"We came to the stronghold of the Brotherhood. No more protests in front of the presidential palace because those ruling Egypt are here," said 50-year-old Hamat Awat, a female protester while running away from volleys of tear gas fired by black-clad riot police guarding the headquarters.

Anger erupted a week ago

when Brotherhood members beat journalists and liberal and secular activists during a protest outside the group's Cairo headquarters. Journalists were there to cover a meeting. Protesters demand an apolo-

After smaller demonstrations since last weekend outside the headquarters, thousands of activists thronged to the building and battled Brotherhood supporters with birdshot, rocks, knives, sticks and

time, authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in a revolt. His successor Mohammed Morsi, the country's first democratically elected leader, has faced increasing frustration over what many see

and killings to fight crime. The unrest has badly hurt the economy, with foreign investors and tourists largely staying away, and a diesel crisis that has crippled life for millions.

Morsi's opponents — led by many of the activists who were at the forefront of the mass protests leading to Mubarak's ouster — charge that he has done little to improve the country in the nine months since he took office. They accuse the Brotherhood, which rose in power after years of repression under the former secular regime, of seeking to monopolize power, a charge the group denies. The anti-Brotherhood protesters demanding the resignation of the attorney general and the interior minister, both presidential appointees. They also accuse the interior minister of authorizing security forces to use excessive force against protesters.

More than 70 people have been killed in protests with police since Mohammed Ibrahim was appointed in January.

Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Yasser Mehres blamed opposition parties for calling Friday's protest outside the group's headquarters. He said it gave way for "thugs" to infiltrate and attack Brotherhood offices. □



Two masked protesters pose for a picture in front of burning busses during clashes between supporters and opponents of Egypt's powerful Muslim Brotherhood near the Islamist group's headquarters in Cairo, Egypt Friday, March 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

gy, but the fundamentalist movement said its guards were provoked and acted in self-defense.

their fists Friday. Gunshots were heard ringing in the neighborhood.

Three Brotherhood offices were ransacked by mobs in another Cairo neighborhood, in the second-largest city of Alexandria and in the Nile Delta city of Ma-halla.

Egypt has faced near-constant turmoil in the more than two years since long-

as attempts by his group to monopolize power and the slow pace of his efforts to reform the state and fulfill the revolution's promises of better living standards and justice.

Thousands of policemen, meanwhile, have gone on strike, refusing to confront protesters, and in some provinces, Egyptians have taken to vigilante violence

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International court detains Rwandan-born Ntaganda



Bosco Ntaganda, a former warlord then integrated into Congo's national army, in Goma, eastern Congo.

(AP Photo/Alain Wandimoyi)

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — African warlord Bosco Ntaganda was taken from the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda on Friday and put on a flight to The Hague, where he faces trial at the International Criminal Court on charges including murder, rape and persecution in a rebel group's deadly reign of terror that gripped eastern Congo a decade ago.

Ntaganda was due to arrive late Friday night, nearly seven years after he was first indicted. His transfer was hailed as a crucial step in bringing to justice one of Africa's most notorious warlords.

It was also a welcome relief to a court that earlier this week dropped charges against a senior Kenyan suspect for lack of evidence and late last year acquitted another rebel leader accused of atrocities in Congo.

Nicknamed "The Terminator" because of his reputation for ruthlessness in battle, Ntaganda became a symbol of impunity in Africa, at times playing tennis in eastern Congo, apparently without fear of arrest. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called the transfer "an important moment for all who believe in justice and accountability."

"For nearly seven years, Ntaganda was a fugitive from justice, evading accountability for alleged vi-

olations of international humanitarian law and mass atrocities against innocent civilians, including rape, murder, and the forced recruitment of thousands of Congolese children as soldiers," Kerry said in a statement. "Now there is hope that justice will be done." Despite his 2006 ICC indictment, Ntaganda joined the Congolese army in 2009 as a general following a peace deal that paved the way for him and his men to be integrated into the military. He was allowed to live freely in the provincial capital of Goma, where he also dined at top restaurants.

Last year, however, the agreement between the former warlord and the Congolese government disintegrated, and he and his troops defected, becoming known as M23 and battling Congolese government troops in the country's mineral-rich east. Ntaganda is believed to have turned himself in after becoming vulnerable when his M23 rebel group split into two camps last month over the decision to bow to international pressure and withdraw from Goma late last year.

Ntaganda and another rebel leader, Jean-Marie Runiga, had opposed any pullout, but a rebel general, Sultani Makenga, ordered a retreat and initiated peace talks with the Congo government.

Rwanda's cooperation in the transfer of Ntaganda could come at a cost. If he testifies in The Hague, he could reveal details of Rwanda's alleged role in the conflict in Congo and support for M23.

A United Nations panel of experts last year said that both Rwanda and Uganda commanded and supported M23. Both countries deny the charge.

Ntaganda was turned over to ICC staff in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, where he gave himself up at the U.S. Embassy on Monday. He is the first indicted suspect to voluntarily surrender to the court's custody. □

Italy: Bersani tapped to form new government

COLLEEN BARRY

F. D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's center-left leader, Pier Luigi Bersani, was given the tough task Friday to form a new and viable government, which is badly needed to steer the country out of recession and get more Italians back to work.

National elections last month produced no clear winner, but President Giorgio Napolitano said the 61-year-old Bersani was best positioned to create a government given "the most difficult circumstances" — a reference that while the political leader has a comfortable majority in the lower house, the Senate is split.

The vote made plain may voters were disenchanted with mainstream parties and largely divided over which forces should lead Italy at this delicate moment.

Bersani's forces finished first, but he has ruled out a coalition with the next-biggest vote-getter, former Premier Silvio Berlusconi's

conservative alliance. Such a move would risk further alienating the voting base of Bersani's Democratic Party.

But if he shuns Berlusconi, Bersani will need to win sup-



Center-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani walks past a presidential guard, at Rome's Quirinale palace, Friday, March 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/A. Tarantino)

port from Parliament's new third bloc, a populist, anti-euro movement founded by comic-turned-political leader Beppe Grillo. Grillo has rejected a vote of confidence to support any established party — and in the required vote

of confidence for a new government to go forward. Still, some Grillo lawmakers broke ranks over the weekend and voted to support Bersani's candidate as Senate speaker, indicating the comic's grip on his lawmaker's might not be iron-clad.

Nevertheless, "I don't think Bersani has a chance to put together a government," said political scientist Robert D'Alimonte.

If Bersani fails, Napolitano could tap someone else, a fresh face to politics, like newly chosen Senate President Piero Grasso, a widely respected former anti-Mafia prosecutor, said D'Alimonte, a professor at LUISS university in Rome. Grasso could be tasked to form a technical government with a specific mandate, including rewriting the electoral law.

Bersani pledged dialogue with political forces in the coming days, seeking a balance between "a government seeking the change expected by the Italians and one able to carry out reforms." □

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Putin greets China's Xi with lavish reception

V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — China's new president received a lavish welcome Friday as he made Moscow his first foreign destination, joining with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a pointed attempt to counter U.S. influence in Asia.

Xi Jinping, who became president just last week, urged Russia to improve its foreign policy coordination to protect the two neighbors' joint security interests — comments that appeared to seek Russia's backing for his eagerness to reduce U.S. influence and challenge Japan over a set of disputed islands.

Xi was greeted by Putin at a grandiose reception that saw guards on horseback welcoming a foreign leader for the first time in recent memory. The pomp underlined just how close ties between the two Cold War-era rivals have become thanks to their energy needs and a shared aspiration to curtail U.S. power around the world.

After the talks, Russian and Chinese officials signed agreements on deliveries of Russian oil and gas to China.

Kremlin guards snapped at attention as Xi and his long retinue walked into the gilded, chandeliered Grand Kremlin Palace. The two leaders greeted members of official delegations in the ornate St. George Hall before sitting down for talks.

Putin described the ties between the two countries as an "extremely important factor in global politics" and said Moscow "greatly appreciated" Xi's deci-

sion to make Russia the first country he visited as China's new leader. The visit by Xi, who became Communist Party chief in November, followed a tradition of the two nations' leaders paying inaugural visits to each other. Putin told the ITAR-Tass news agency that relations between Moscow and Bei-

mon strategic security." "We must emphasize further increasing our mutual political support and resolutely back each other's efforts to protect sovereignty, security and development interests," Xi said.

Two academics — Douglas H. Paal and Dmitri Trenin of Carnegie Endowment — said in an analysis that Chi-

nese leaders were interested in nurturing close ties.

"For China, Putin personally can be relied upon to keep an arm's length from Washington and to promote a multipolar world, not one dominated by the United States," they said. "Demonstrating Sino-Russian cooperation serves the interests of both in offsetting Ameri-



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands during their meeting in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Russia, Friday, March 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

jing were helping to "shape a new, more just world order." He added that Russia and China have shown a "balanced and pragmatic approach" to international crises — an apparent reference to their lockstep opposition to U.N. sanctions against Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime.

Xi, in turn, pointedly told Putin that he expects Russia to "strengthen coordination and interaction in tackling international and regional issues to ensure our com-

na may be trying to woo Moscow to Beijing's side in its quarrel with Japan and trying to prod Russia to cooperate more actively against the U.S.-led missile shield in northeast Asia.

They predicted, however, that Russia is unlikely to show much enthusiasm for the plan, as it wants to normalize relations with Tokyo and doesn't share the Chinese grievances about U.S. missile defenses in the Pacific region. Still, they said, Moscow and Beijing are

can power and influence." Friday's talks focused on energy as China looked to secure supplies from Russia, the world's biggest energy producer, as part of its strategy to reduce its dependence on sea routes.

Russia's state-controlled Gazprom natural gas giant and China's CNPC signed a memorandum on building a new gas pipeline to China, inching closer to a deal that has been on the table for years amid fierce price disputes. □

Fitch puts UK on review for a downgrade

LONDON (AP) — Fitch placed Britain's AAA rating on review for a downgrade on Friday, a blow to the government just days after it presented an austere budget it argued would put the country on a path to recovery. Fitch Ratings said it was putting the U.K. on "rating watch negative" — indicating a heightened probability of a downgrade in the near term — and that it expects to complete its review by the end of April. Its report cited worsening forecasts for government debt and comes just a month after Moody's Investor's Service downgraded the U.K.'s credit rating.

The Conservative-led government on Wednesday presented a public spending plan that promised more austerity, despite weakness in the economy, and has raised fears of a third recession in just over four years. It has insisted, in the face of withering criticism, that debt-reduction measures are the best way forward for the country.

That view is not shared by all. After three years of austerity, the country is borrowing more than Treasury chief George Osborne initially thought and the economy is growing far slower than anticipated. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility estimates that public debt will continue rising until 2016-17, peaking at 85.6 percent of Britain's annual gross domestic product. In its last forecast in December, it estimated debt would peak at 79.9 percent in 2015-16. □

Rebels advance toward Central African Republic capital

H. MARBOUA

R. CALLIMACHI

Associated Press

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — Rebels in Central African Republic on Friday took the town of Damara, beginning a new march to take the capital, Bangui, said a rebel spokesman.

By seizing Damara the rebels crossed the boundary line drawn by regional forces in January, when the same rebel group threatened to take the capital if their demands were not met. The rebels, known as Seleka, attacked the town of Bossangoa early Friday, before taking Damara later in the day, said Eric Massi, a Paris-based spokesman for the rebels. He claimed that his fighters had already covertly infiltrated the capital, Bangui, and are waiting for their fellow fighters to join them.

Panic spread throughout the capital, with the neighborhoods closest to the northern gate of the city emptying out, as frightened residents locked up their shops, packed their bags and yanked their children out of school. Banks and government offices closed early.

"Bossangoa fell without a fight. And as you know, Bossangoa is the fief of President Francois Bozize. We took Bossangoa in the morning and by early afternoon, our elements were in Damara. They are now marching on the capital. We are calling on the population and on the military to put down their arms. And we are calling on our soldiers to prove that they are disciplined, to refrain from pillaging, so that we can avoid unnecessary combat," said Massi by telephone.

In January, an interna-

tional force made up of soldiers from the countries neighboring Central African Republic rushed to the front, creating a new line of control in Damara. The rebels stopped just before Damara, before entering into talks with the government, culminating in a Jan. 11 peace deal signed in Libreville, the capital of Gabon. In Bossangoa, resident Marien Nambea confirmed the town had fallen to the rebels, and in Damara, soldier Jean-Pierre Sadou from the regional force known as FOMAC said the rebels had pushed through their defenses. It was not immediately clear if the FOMAC soldiers had strategically retreated in order to better protect the capital, or if they had fled.

"Since the signing of the deal in Libreville, President Francois Bozize has spent his time trying to put the brakes on the application of the accord. The humanitarian situation has become significantly worse. It's starting to frustrate the people of the Central African Republic and it's why the soldiers of Seleka took this decision," Massi said.

Central African Republic, a nation of 4.5 million located at the heart of the African continent, remains one of the world's poorest nations, with most people dying before their 49th birthday, according to data from the World Bank. It has weathered repeated coups and rebel invasions, which have become part of the nation's political DNA.

In power since 2003, Bozize is himself the result of a rebel occupation. After years as a high-ranking military officer, Bozize launched a rebellion in 2001, taking Bangui two years later, when the then-president was out of the country. □



A convoy of Chadian soldiers fighting in support of Central African Republic president Francois Bozize moves along the road in Damara, about 44 miles north of the capital Bangui, Central African Republic. On Friday, March 22, rebels took the town of Damara, beginning a new march to take the capital, Bangui, said a rebel spokesman.

(AP Photo/Ben Curtis)



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Dominicans probe claim website paid for Menendez sex lies

E. ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A Dominican prosecutor said Friday that a local attorney told him someone claiming to work for the conservative website The Daily Caller paid him to find prostitutes who would lie about having sex with U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez.

Jose Polanco told The Associated Press that attorney Melanio Figueroa said he was promised \$5,000 by someone named "Carlos" to find prostitutes. Polanco said Figueroa told him in an interrogation late Thursday that he was only paid \$2,000 after finding the prostitutes.

Daily Caller Editor Tucker Carlson categorically denied the allegations in a

statement Friday.

"It seems clear to me Figueroa is under pressure to change his story," he said. "What I know for certain is this claim is a lie. The Daily Caller never paid anyone, was never asked to pay anyone and of course never would pay anyone for this story."

Polanco said authorities will review footage from surveillance cameras in areas where the man identified as Carlos supposedly met with Figueroa to try to identify him. He said Figueroa described the man as tall and white, with brown eyes and brown hair and between 28 and 34 years old. Polanco originally said the man had blue eyes but later corrected his statement.

The announcement comes

days after police said the prostitutes lied about hav-

eotaped statements. Two of the women received



Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., at the Capitol in Washington.
(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

ing sex with Menendez. Police spokesman Maximo Baez has said the women were hired by a Dominican attorney to make vid-

about \$425 and the other was paid about \$300, he said.

Police are still investigating the source of the al-

legations that Menendez had sex with prostitutes while in the Dominican Republic with his friend and campaign contributor, Dr. Salomon Melgen, a south Florida doctor, and with Vinicio Castillo Seman, an attorney whose family is politically prominent in the Dominican Republic.

Menendez and Castillo, who is Melgen's cousin, have denied hiring prostitutes. Two of the videotaped interviews with the women were published on The Daily Caller's website as Menendez ran for re-election in November. Federal agents later searched Melgen's office, and the senator was compelled to reimburse \$58,000 for two flights on Melgen's private jet for trips to the Dominican Republic. □

China: Missing tycoon helped fugitive

BEIJING (AP) — Police disclosed Friday that a Chinese tycoon whose disappearance threatened to disrupt deals with mining companies in the United States and Australia is being held on suspicion he helped hide a brother who is a murder suspect.

A newspaper reported this week that Liu Han, chairman of Sichuan Hanlong Group, was detained in mid-March by police in Beijing but a two-sentence statement Friday by the police ministry was the first official word about him. Liu is under investigation on charges of harboring a fugitive and other unspecified "serious offenses," the statement said. It announced the capture of his brother as a "major murder suspect" but gave no other details.

Police spokespeople in Chengdu, where Liu lives, said they had no more in-

formation. Phone calls to the police ministry in Beijing were not answered.

Liu's company said this week it was unable to reach him by phone.

Hanlong owns a 13 percent stake in General Moly, a miner of molybdenum, a mineral used to harden steel. Hanlong was arranging financing for a mine in Nevada.

General Moly said Wednesday it had suspended work on a \$665 million loan for its Mt. Hope mine from the state-run China Development Bank until it receives clarification from Hanlong. Hanlong also owns 14 percent of Australia's Sundance Resources, which is developing an iron mine in Congo and neighboring Cameroon in central Africa.

Hanlong is offering 1.5 billion Australian dollars (\$1.5 billion) to acquire the rest of the company.

Sundance said this week the deal has yet to receive final approval from China's economic planning agency.

Sundance asked Wednesday for trading in its shares on Australian markets to be suspended while it sought information about Liu.

Liu was No. 148 last year on Forbes magazine's list of the richest Chinese businesspeople, with a fortune estimated at \$855 million.

Hanlong was founded in 1997 and has interests in mining, construction of hydroelectric power, highway and tourism infrastructure and other businesses with a total workforce of more than 12,000 people, according to its website.

It is part of a wave of Chinese energy and mining companies that are buying assets abroad in Australia, Africa and elsewhere in hopes of profiting from growing global demand. □

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the support and hope that everyone involved had a good time. Also a big thank you goes to the sponsors of the event: without their incredible help the event could not have been possible. Congratulations to the win-

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For those of you that did not get the chance to participate; The Kiwanis will be having this tournament next year again. In

the meanwhile, they are always open to suggestions and Kiwanis appreciates any help you can provide. The Kiwanis' next event will be the Queen's Day Tournament on April 30th. More information will follow. □

Exciting semi-finals lead to 3 finalists in reading competition



- Nine participating schools receive 1,000 florins from generous local sponsors

ORANJESTAD, March 21, 2013 – A group of students representing nine primary schools on the island participated in the semi-finals of the reading competition Ban Orlando Lesando (Let's go to Orlando reading) on Thursday March 21st. During a fun-filled afternoon the 2nd round in the competition resulted in 3 finalists for May 3rd's grand finale. The reading competition is organized by Foundation Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi and Marriott Vacation Club Aruba to promote and en-

courage reading amongst children both at school and at home.

Desiree Correa, Gina Ramsbottom and Selvia Lumenier were approached by the Foundation to serve as jury members because of their expertise and rich careers in the book industry. Correa is a school teacher and the author of books for both young children and youth for many years. Lumenier works as an editor at a magazine. She also serves as editor of childrens books including two books from this reading competition: Horcan y Mayra and Catalino Bocachica. Ramsbottom is editor at the De-

partment of Education in Aruba and coordinates the publication process of children's books. These three professionals were in charge of reviewing 17 entries from 14 schools that signed up for the reading competition. After careful review a group of nine semi-finalists were selected by these jury members. Winners of the first round were Graciella Herrera of Pius X School, Meghan Arrendsz of Colegio Sagrado Curason, Shamelyn Pena of Colegio Felipe B. Tromp, Bjorn Tromp of O.L.V. Fatima Colege, Jeanmila Richardson of Scol Caiquetio, Edilianne Caster of Colegio San Hose, Zoe Kock of Colegio Hilario Angela, Carl-Angelo Boekhoudt of Maria School and Mikhaila Vrolijk of Cacique Macuarima School. These nine semi-finalists entered the second round on March 21st that consisted of two assignments involving lots of drama and fun. In preparation of this second quiz round, all students had to read the book Horcan y Mayra by author Sonia Garmers. Students were given words coming from this book and were asked to

depict those words for an audience. Second part of the quiz consisted of professional actors dramatizing specific parts of the book. Afterwards all nine students were asked questions about these scenes and what part of the book they represented. All exercises were completed with great excitement and laughter.

The jury then selected three winners to enter the grand finale on May 3rd. Finalists will be Graciella Herrera of Pius X School, Meghan Arrendsz of Colegio Sagrado Curason and Mikhaila Vrolijk of Cacique Macuarima School.

"Congratulations to our three finalists and a big thank you to all teachers and parents who guided their children during this competition" said Olga Buckley, president of the Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi Foundation. "I'd also like to thank all students representing 17 schools that participated and have made this competition such a great success. Special thanks also go to our sponsors for making very generous contributions and motivating us to continue with our mission and to the Media Service of the National Library for filming the first round of the quiz. Lastly, we thank the volunteers of Foundation Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi who carry out their tasks with such great joy and dedication," Buckley concluded.

After selecting the three finalists all nine student semi finalists were also winners in the reading competition as the primary schools they represent were handed a 1,000 florin cheque. This generous donation was made possible by Aruba Investment Bank, Medwork, Setar, Manrique Capriles Aruba, Free Zone Aruba, Kiwanis Club Palm Beach of Aruba, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Caribbean Mercantile Bank, Aruba Airport Authority and Fatum Aruba. "We are truly grateful to have received such tremendous support from these local businesses," said Bettina Gonzalez of Marriott Vacation Club Aruba, co-partner in the reading competition. "We reached out to these sponsors to involve a broader participation of

the business community into this effort while underscoring the importance of developing today's youth in Aruba. Surely by reading you enhance the opportunity for a better education and therefore pave the way for the future leaders on our magnificent island. Marriott Vacation Club of Aruba and the Marriott Vacation Club International Community Welfare Foundation thank these businesses for aligning with us in this vision and supporting Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi's reading project."

The grand finale of the reading competition Ban Orlando Lesando will take place on Friday May 3rd at EPI Seroe Blanco from 3-5 pm. Winner of this exciting finale will receive a week's stay at a Marriott Vacation Club resort in Orlando as well as roundtrip airfare for two to Orlando, Florida. Spectators are warmly invited to attend the final round and support these finalists.

Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi was founded in 2007 to promote, support and stimulate reading books amongst children, both at school and at home. The Foundation's focus group is young school students aged four to eight. Activities of the Foundation include book reading sessions and house visits, reading quizzes for primary schools, promotions in conjunction with the National Library, and the Bibliobus.

Marriott Vacation Club Aruba started supporting the Bon Nuchi Drumi Dushi Foundation in 2012 strongly believing in the Foundation's goals and objectives and is a co-partner in the reading competition. The Marriott Vacation Club International Community Welfare Foundation was founded in 2004 by the associates of the Marriott Vacation Club of Aruba and has been actively contributing to the Aruba community for the past nine years. It embodies a living and breathing sentiment and "Spirit to Serve" within the associates who fund the Foundation through direct financial contributions. Currently over 64% of the Marriott Vacation Club of Aruba associates contribute monthly to the Foundation. □

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ORANJESTAD - As part of their celebration of 75 years of Rotary Aruba the Rotary Club continues to upgrade the playgrounds that they installed several years ago. Over the last couple of weeks, active members of their club, together with members of the Rotaract Club did some major maintenance work on the Paradise Playground at Paradiswijk.

This playground was constructed in 2004 and has always been used by the neighborhood very enthusiastically. In addition to the renovation of the playground the Rotary Club plans to install more equipment in the near future. □

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The 14th annual "Copa Cees Bossers" Beach Soccer Tournament kicks off on Thursday March 28th on Eagle Beach.

The event transforms Aruba's prestigious Eagle Beach into a sandy white soccer field for an amazing four days of "beasal" (Beach Soccer) featuring the best teams on the island. Players face off to showcase their talent on Aruba's Eagle Beach, named #9 of the Best Beaches in the World.

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end (Semana Santa), and includes youth, men's and women's categories.

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The women's and men's games will take place after the youth finals in the late afternoon hours until late Saturday evening. On Sunday and Monday the games begin at noon,

with finals being held at approximately 5:30pm on Monday. Come enjoy the magnificent sunset accompanied by a nerve wrecking final event.

"It is not an easy task to organize such an event, especially with limited funds and manpower, but with the right attitude and team, you can actually have lots of fun and run effectively as we do." Says Roland de Cuba, president of the JTL and Copa Cees Bossers Committee.

Every year we try to enhance the event by inviting players from other countries to participate, this year so far, there are two international teams, from USA and Curacao.

If you happen to be on Aruba between March 28th to April 1st you are invited to register your team @ www.beachsocceraruba.com or www.facebook.com/beachsocceraruba. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Justin Rose, of England, tees off on the first hole during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament, Friday, March 22, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Rose keeps his nose in front at Bay Hill

Bill Haas wanted to atone for the way he finished his opening round. He did that and more Friday and was tied for the lead in the Arnold Palmer Invitational. That sure wasn't the case for Tiger Woods.

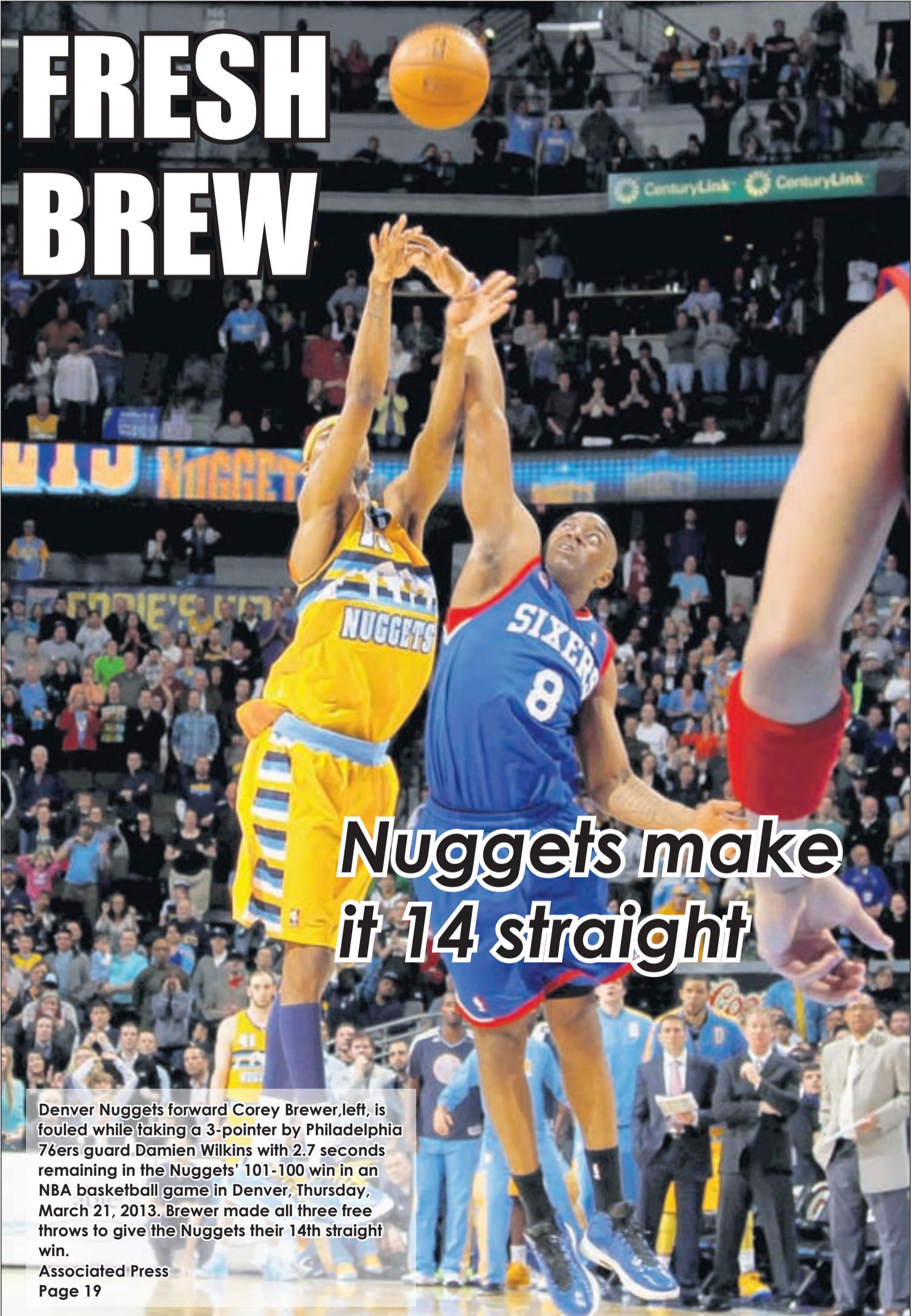
One shot out of the lead with three holes to play, Woods closed with three sloppy bogeys to fall four shots behind going into the weekend. That makes the chore a little more difficult in his bid to defend his title at Bay Hill and return to No. 1 in the world.

"The good news is we've got 36 holes to go," Woods said. "We've got a long way to go. And certainly four shots can be made up."

Haas not only kept bogeys off his card, his longest putt for par was no more than 4 feet in a clean round of 6-under 66. He was tied with Justin Rose, who was poised to take the outright lead until he was fooled by the speed of the greens after late afternoon showers and finished with a three-putt bogey for a 70.

Continued on page 18

FRESH BREW



Nuggets make it 14 straight

Denver Nuggets forward Corey Brewer, left, is fouled while taking a 3-pointer by Philadelphia 76ers guard Damien Wilkins with 2.7 seconds remaining in the Nuggets' 101-100 win in an NBA basketball game in Denver, Thursday, March 21, 2013. Brewer made all three free throws to give the Nuggets their 14th straight win.

Associated Press
Page 19



Tiger Woods, left, and Justin Rose, of England, walk to their next shot on the fairway during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament, Friday, March 22, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

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Preferred RESIDENCES

Bay Hill

Continued from page 17

They were at 9-under 135, one shot ahead of John Huh, who had a 69.

The finishing holes have proved pivotal in the opening two rounds. Haas was challenging for the lead on Thursday when he flew his tee shot into the back bunker on the par-3 17th and had to two-putt from 40 feet for bogey. Then, he three-putted from 8 feet on the 18th hole for bogey to ruin his day.

"So to leave, basically giving two away, my goal today was try to get those two back and go from there," Haas said. "That was kind of my mindset today, and then I was able to keep it going."

Rose went eagle-birdie on the 16th and 17th holes that sent him on his way to an opening 65, and he regained the lead Friday with a 4-iron just off the fringe for a simple birdie on the 16th. But after a burst of rain, he thought the green might be slower than it was on his 25-foot birdie try. He ran it 5 feet by the hole, and missed it coming back. "But that was the only thing that hampered the day, really," Rose said. "All in all, exciting day and I'm in a good position."

Woods hit the ball better in the second round and had to settle for a higher score, all because of his finish. He had about 210 yards from a fairway bunker on the par-5 16th and caught it heavy, slamming the sand with the back of his club even before the ball took one hop and tumbled into the creek short of the green. He pitched up to 25 feet and took bogey. Then, he turned over his tee shot on the 17th and wound up in the rough well behind the green, and his chip went all the way through the green.

Woods followed that with a tee shot into the right rough that forced him to play short of the water, and he hit a poor chip to about 30 feet. He missed that for a 70.

"I've made my share of mistakes on the last few holes the last couple of days, and I need to clean

that up," said Woods, who made bogeys on the 17th and 18th holes on Thursday in the middle of his round. That closing stretch wasn't the only thing that held him back. Woods missed a birdie putt inside 3 feet on the par-3 second hole. He missed a 6-foot birdie putt on the par-4 fourth hole and he tried to jam in a 3-foot birdie putt on the 12th that caught the lip and stayed out.

"He's normally a fast finisher, and you can expect him to probably finish fast on the weekend," Rose said. "He did a lot of hard work today. He actually played really well. I thought he was probably a couple of shots away from shooting 64 today at times. I'm sure he was very disappointed because he actually played some great golf today."

Sixteen players were separated by five shots going into the weekend, and the question was how much fire the downpour at the conclusion of Friday would take out of Bay Hill.

Ken Duke (68), J.J. Henry (67) and Jim Walker (69) were at 6-under 138. Woods was right behind, along with Mark Wilson and Vijay Singh, who each shot 68. Rickie Fowler had a 67 and joined the large group at 4-under 140.

Rose wasn't just fooled by the speed of the green on the 18th hole. He also had a spectator get in his head over a 15-foot birdie attempt on the 13th. The putt narrowly missed and Rose spun around and pointed his finger at the noisy spectator. It wasn't about heckling, rather advice.

"I was reading the putt thinking ... 'Might go a little bit right-to-left of the hole. Fairly straight overall.' And as I'm lining it up, someone is like, 'It goes right. It goes right. It goes right.' So I'm like, 'OK, thanks, buddy,'" Rose said. "It's just one of those annoying moments where you're having to then battle someone who planted a seed. And I hit a great putt that's in the middle with 4 feet to go and it goes left of the hole." He smiled when he finished the story. After all, he was still tied for the lead. □

Nuggets win 14th straight, 101-100 over 76ers



Denver Nuggets forward Corey Brewer (13) sets to make his third free throw to give the Nuggets a one-point lead with 2.7 seconds remaining in their 101-100 win over the Philadelphia 76ers in an NBA basketball game in Denver, Thursday, March 21, 2013. Brewer was fouled while taking a desperation 3-pointer by 76ers guard Damien Wilkins, rear right. Nuggets guard Andre Iguodala, rear left, looks on.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Corey Brewer sank three free throws with 2.1 seconds left and the Denver Nuggets stretched their franchise-best winning streak to 14 games with a 101-100 thriller over the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday night.

NBA Capsules Anthony Randolph blocked Damien Wilkins' desperation jumper at the buzzer to secure Denver's 16th straight win at the Pepsi Center — and its most unlikely.

Brewer finished with 29 points.

Wilkins had 24 points and Jrue Holliday had 18 points and 15 assists for the Sixers. Brewer scored the Nuggets' last six points, including a 3-pointer with 9.2 seconds left that pulled Denver within 100-98.

Brewer fouled Evan Turner with 7.1 seconds left and he missed both free throws. After a timeout, Anthony

Miller inbounded to Danilo Gallinari, who passed to Brewer, who was knocked down on his 3-point try by Wilkins.

TRAIL BLAZERS 99, **BULLS** 89 **CHICAGO** (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 28 points, Damian Lillard added 24 and Portland completed a season sweep of Chicago.

Portland improved to 10-25 on the road to take the season series with the Bulls for the first time since the 2008-09 season.

The Blazers beat Chicago 102-94 on Nov. 18 in their other meeting this season. Joakim Noah had 18 points and Carlos Boozer added 16 points and 11 rebounds for Chicago, which shot 44 percent.

J.J. Hickson grabbed 21 rebounds for Portland, which held a 45-41 rebounding advantage.

KINGS 101, **TIMBERWOLVES**

98

SACRAMENTO, California

(AP) — Isaiah Thomas had 24 points and six assists, Tyreke Evans scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and Sacramento earned its third straight home win by holding off slumping Minnesota. The Kings are 6-5 over the

last three weeks and their 19 home wins are the most over the previous three seasons.

Nikola Pekovic had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost two straight and four of five. Injury-plagued

Minnesota has dropped 21 of 28 games since Jan. 8. The Timberwolves have lost nine straight and 17 of 18 on the road.

Ricky Rubio had 12 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves. □

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Dutch skaters dominate speed-skating world championships



Winner Sven Kramer, right, and second placed Jorrit Bergsma, left, both of the Netherlands, pose with their medals after the finish in the men's 5,000 meter race, during the ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships 2013 in Adler-Arena in Sochi, Russia, Friday, March 22, 2013.

Associated Press

Brodeur scores as Devils top Hurricanes 4-1



Phoenix Coyotes' Antoine Vermette (50) gets taken down by Vancouver Canucks' Keith Ballard during the second period in an NHL hockey game, Thursday, March 21, 2013, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Martin Brodeur scored his third career goal and made 17 saves in his first game in a month, leading the New Jersey Devils to a 4-1 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes on Thursday night.

NHL Capsules Brodeur had been out since Feb. 21 with a pinched nerve in

his upper back and neck. Peter Harrold, Adam Henrique and Andrei Loktionov also scored to help the Devils snap a three-game losing streak.

Jeff Skinner had the Hurricanes' lone goal while Dan Ellis made 19 saves in Carolina's fifth consecutive loss.

Brodeur got credit for the game's first goal when Carolina's Jordan Staal passed the puck back to the point from behind the net after a delayed penalty call against New Jersey's Marek Zidlicky.

The pass missed intended target Tim Gleason and bounced off the boards

near center ice. Ellis had already skated toward the bench because of the delayed penalty and couldn't get back in time to prevent the puck from sliding into the net.

Because he was the last Devils player to touch the puck, Brodeur got credit for the score. According to EliasSports Bureau, Brodeur is the first goalie to score a power-play goal since Evgeni Nabokov for San Jose in 2002.

STARS 2, KINGS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jaromir Jagr and Ray Whitney scored 4:22 apart in the third period, lifting Dallas to its fourth straight win at Staples Center.

The 41-year-old Jagr and 40-year-old Whitney scored in the same game for the second time this season. □

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Sven Kramer and Ireen Wust led Dutch 1-2 finishes at the world single distance speedskating championships on Friday.

Also, Denis Kuzin won his and Kazakhstan's first major gold medal by taking the 1,000 meters.

Olympic and defending champion Kramer won the men's 5,000 by 3.53 seconds from his teammate Jorrit Bergsma.

It was the 18th major gold medal for Kramer who also won the allround title in February.

Russia's Ivan Skobrev was third at Adler Arena, the venue for Sochi Olympics. Wust won the women's 1,500 to claim her second gold medal in as many days. Her teammate Lotte van Beek was a distant 2.64 seconds behind.

It was the 12th championship gold for Wust, who dominated the 3,000 on Thursday.

Defending champ Christine Nesbitt of Canada was third, 0.04 seconds behind Van Beek.

"I think, my result proves that I can succeed on this ice at the Olympics,"

said Nesbitt, who also won gold in the 1,000 in Vancouver.

Kuzin edged out Olympic 500 champion Mo Tae-bum of South Korea by one-tenth of a second. Olympic 1,000 champ Shani Davis of the United States was third, six-hundredths of a second behind Mo for his second podium in two days.

Mo, the Olympic 1,000 silver medallist, led at the 600-meter mark followed by Davis, the three-time world champ at the distance. But Kuzin blazed the fastest time of 26.6 seconds for the last 400 meters.

"I wanted to resign before this season," said Kuzin, who broke his shoulder last summer.

"After surgery I was told I have no chance of coming back into sports but I began to work and reached my goal. I will come back to Sochi next year, hoping to win again."

The championships continue on Saturday with the men's 10,000 and women's 1,000 and 5,000. □



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Fill-in for Azarenka wins at Key Biscayne

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP)

— With an ankle injury forcing two-time champion Victoria Azarenka to withdraw from the Sony Open on Friday, Lauren Davis quickly went from lucky loser to lucky winner.

Given a spot in the draw because Azarenka pulled out, Davis took advantage of shaky play by fellow American Madison Keys in the decisive tiebreaker to win their second-round match 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7). Davis trailed 6-3 in the tie-breaker and then saved three match consecutive points, all on unforced errors by Keys.

This was Davis' first victory at Key Biscayne, and the 19-year-old barely made the tournament. She learned at 10 a.m. that Azarenka had quit, and an hour later was playing on the stadium court.

"I didn't care if I won or lost," she said. "I just was so grateful for the opportunity to play."

Like Keys, American Jamie Hampton held a match point but lost to No. 20-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (3). In men's play, No. 3 David Ferrer advanced by walk-over when qualifier Dmitry Tursunov withdrew with acute gastroenteritis.

Wild card James Blake, playing at Key Biscayne for the 12th time, beat No. 24-seeded Julien Benneteau 6-2, 6-3.

Azarenka withdrew before her quarterfinal last week at Indian Wells because of inflammation and tendinitis in her ankle.

She returned to the practice court Wednesday, and the next day her injury was worse, she said.

She decided to withdraw after trying to practice Friday. Now she figures she needs another couple of weeks to recover.

"I really wanted to play here," she said. "That is very frustrating part. But I will take the necessary time for me to get rid of this problem and move on to the

next chapter." Ranked No. 3, Azarenka is 17-0 this year with two titles but has withdrawn from three tournaments, including the Australian Open before the semifinals because of a right toe injury. Once the No. 81-ranked Davis was granted a spot in the draw, she worked hard to keep it.

In a matchup between two teenagers from nearby Boca Raton, Florida, she and Keys played for more than 2 1/2 hours before reaching the tiebreaker. Keys, an 18-year-old wild card, entered the tournament with a career-best ranking of No. 76. But when she served for the match at 6-3 in the tiebreaker, her inexperience showed.

She dumped groundstrokes into the net on consecutive points, then pushed a forehand wide for 6-all, and at 7-all she double-faulted. When Keys sailed a forehand long on the final point, she broke her racket by slamming it to the concrete.



James Blake, of the United States, returns to Julien Benneteau, of France, during the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Friday, March 22, 2013.

Associated Press

"This will sting for a couple of days," she said. "The whole match bugs me. Early on I was going for too much. Then in the tiebreaker I was remember what happened earlier, and that made me more nervous." Steadier from the baseline but a head shorter than Keys, the 5-foot-2 Davis won despite trailing 10-0 in aces and 43-10 in winners.

"I just relied on my fighting instincts to pull me through," she said. Davis said she and Keys have known each other for several years. They practice together often and are good friends. "We're always so competitive, and the score is always really, really close," Davis said. "It's the smallest things that make a difference." □

Wrestling hopes for provisional Olympic status

LUKE MEREDITH
AP Sports Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Wrestling has two opportunities left at a return to the Olympic program. U.S. wrestling officials appeared to have settled on which one they think is the best bet. Former world champion Bill Scherr, the chairman of a committee of top American wrestling figures, says the sport's best chance to remain an Olympic sport is to beat out the likes of

squash, roller sports and karate for re-inclusion as a provisional sport in the 2020 Olympics. "Perhaps our better avenue to stay in the Games is to win the competition against the provisional sports," Scherr said. "We need to canvass those 15 IOC executive board members to make sure we get on that short list."

Though the International Olympic Committee recommended in February to remove wrestling from the

2020 Olympics, that move is far from final.

Wrestling will compete with seven other sports for a provisional spot in the 2020 Games in a vote in May. But officials also will lobby the 114-member IOC General Session in September in hopes it will overturn the executive board's recommendation by a simple majority vote.

The first step for U.S. officials following what Scherr called a "bombshell" deci-

sion by the IOC was to organize the Committee to Preserve Olympic Wrestling ahead of the May vote in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Scherr joined wrestling great Dan Gable, 2012 Olympic champion Jordan Burroughs and Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), a two-time college champion for Wisconsin, at the NCAA college championships in Des Moines to discuss the committee's progress. Though the IOC vote

was a damaging blow to wrestling's future, Scherr acknowledged that the sport also has itself to blame as well. "Make no mistake about it. We disagree vehemently with the decision of the International Olympic Committee. But also make no mistake that the fault lies largely with the leadership of wrestling, and not the process and the individuals at the International Olympic Committee," Scherr said. □

Cell therapy shows promise for acute type of leukemia

DENISE GRADY

© 2013 New York Times

A treatment that genetically alters a patient's own immune cells to fight cancer has, for the first time, produced remissions in adults with an acute leukemia that is usually lethal, researchers are reporting. In one patient who was severely ill, all traces of leukemia vanished in eight days. "We had hoped, but couldn't have predicted that the response would be so profound and rapid," said Dr. Renier J. Brentjens, the first author of a new study of the therapy and a specialist in leukemia at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The treatment is experimental, has been used in only a small number of patients and did not work in all of them. But experts consider it a highly promising approach for a variety of malignancies, including other blood cancers and tumors in organs like the prostate gland. The new study, in five adults with acute leukemia, in whom chemotherapy had failed, was published Wednesday in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*. In adults, this type of leukemia is a "devastating, galloping disease," said Dr. Michel Sadelain, the senior author of the new study and director of the Center for Cell Engineering and the Gene Transfer and Gene Expression Laboratory at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Patients like the ones in the study, who relapse after chemotherapy, usually have only a few months left, Sadelain said. But now, three of the five have been in remission for five to 24 months.

The treatment uses patients' own T-cells, a type of white blood cell that normally fights viruses and cancer. The patient's blood is run through a machine that extracts T-cells and returns the rest of the blood to the body. Researchers then do some genetic engineering: They use a disabled virus as a "vector"

to carry new genetic material into the T-cells, which reprograms them to recognize and kill any cell that carries a particular protein on its surface. The protein, called CD19, is found on B-cells, which are part of the immune system. This target was chosen because the patients had a type of leukemia that affects B-cells, so the goal was to train the patients' T-cells to destroy B-cells. Healthy B-cells – which make antibodies to fight infection – would be killed along with cancerous ones, but that side effect was treatable.

"We're creating living drugs," Sadelain said. "It's an exciting story that's just beginning." □

Drs. Renier Brentjens and Michel Sadelain, authors of a new study that used a patient's own immune cells to fight leukemia into remission, at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, March 19, 2013.
(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)



Personal Health: Planning ahead for the next flu season

JANE E. BRODY

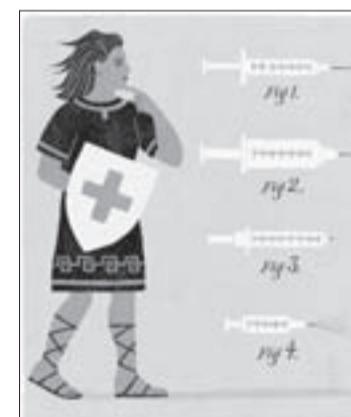
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The flu season may be winding down, but it's not too soon to start thinking about the next one – and what all of us must do differently if we are to avoid a repeat of the epidemic of the past few months. Up to 20 percent of Americans get the flu each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 200,000 are hospitalized, and on average, 36,000 die as a result. These victims are not just the chronically ill or elderly: About 100 children die from the infection annually, and 20,000 are hospitalized. Most of these youngsters were perfectly healthy before this unpredictable virus struck.

Although most flu victims recover within a few days to two weeks, some develop debilitating, even life-threatening, complications: pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections or ear infections. Even after recovery, the flu can cause lingering postviral fatigue and weakness.

Despite all this, only a minority of U.S. adults, and fewer than 1 child in 5, receives an annual vaccination, the best protection against the flu. Perhaps more people would get immunized if they knew all their options, especially the various kinds of flu vac-

cines now available and how to find local, low-cost or free sources. It takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to be fully protective, and the best time to get it is in September or early October, before flu season begins in the United States. But even



It's not too soon to think about the coming flu season, and what must be done to avoid a repeat of this season's epidemic.

(James Steinberg/The New York Times)

after the flu becomes widespread or is on the wane (it can continue to make people sick until sometime in May), the vaccine can be protective.

Four types of flu vaccine protect against the three variants of the flu virus – two versions of Type A and one of Type B – that experts expected to be the predominant culprits in the current flu season.

A fifth vaccine, which protects against four variants – two Type A's and two Type

B's – has recently been approved and should be available later this year. An unexpected surge in a Type B variant that was not in this year's vaccine caused many cases of flu this season and infected some people who had been immunized.

The traditional flu shot is an injection into the muscle, usually in the arm. It consists of killed viral particles that stimulate an antibody response in the body. Typical side effects are soreness or swelling in the injected arm and, in some people, symptoms that resemble the common cold: runny nose, headache, sore throat, cough or achiness. A high-dose version of the traditional shot is available for people 65 and older, who typically have a less robust response to immunization than younger adults.

The higher dose of antigens it contains can produce a more protective response from an aging immune system. An intradermal vaccine given under the skin with a smaller needle is available for adults ages 18-64. It contains the same viral particles as the traditional shot and is preferable for people who avoid immunization because they hate shots.

A nasal-spray vaccine, called FluMist, is licensed for people ages 2-49 who are healthy, not pregnant

and not in close contact with people with compromised immunity. Unlike the shots, it contains live, weakened flu viruses that cannot cause the flu because they can't reproduce in the human body. The nasal spray is ideal for children as well as young adults who are phobic about shots, although it may cause more flu-like side effects, like runny nose, headache, fever, sore throat and muscle aches. Children younger than 9 who are receiving flu vaccine for the first time should get two doses administered at least 28 days apart, preferably starting as soon as the vaccine becomes available in the fall. The first dose primes the immune system; the second stimulates an immune response. Either dose can be administered as a nasal spray or a shot.

Some young children who were immunized in previous years may also need two doses this year or next because a particularly virulent variant, the 2009 H1N1 virus, was not in vaccines produced before the 2010-11 flu season.

The medications work best if started within two days of the onset of flu symptoms and should be given as early as possible to people who become very sick with the flu or face the possibility of serious complications from it. □



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BlackBerry CEO says iPhone is outdated

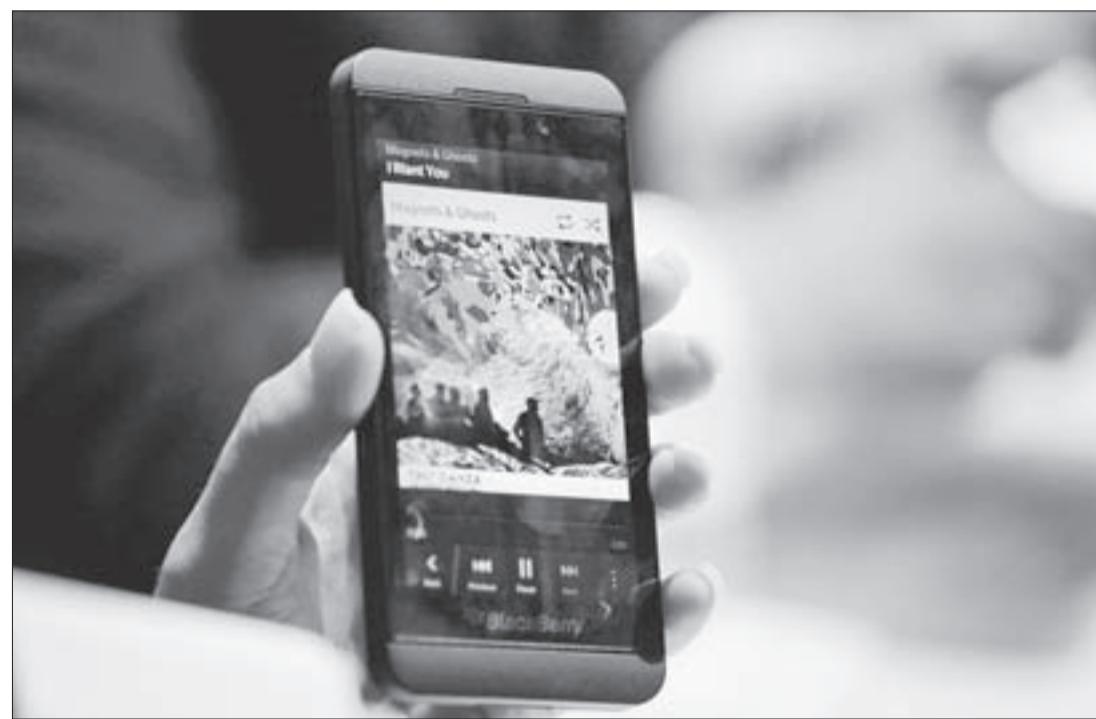
ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Apple's iPhone is outdated, according to the chief executive of BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion Ltd.

Thorsten Heins made the comment Thursday on the eve of the much-delayed launch of the new touch-screen BlackBerry in the United States. AT&T begins selling the Z10 touchscreen BlackBerry on Friday, more than six weeks after RIM launched the devices elsewhere. Heins also told The Associated Press that a new keyboard version of the BlackBerry won't be released in the U.S. until two or three months from now. He previously said it would be eight to 10 weeks, but now he's saying it could be delayed an additional two weeks. Both the touch-screen and keyboard models are part of RIM's attempt at a comeback after the pioneering brand lost its cachet not long after Apple's 2007 release of the iPhone. Heins said a lack of innovation at Apple has left iPhone's user interface outdated. He noted iPhone users have to go in and out of applications and the device doesn't allow for multitasking like the new BlackBerry Z10 does.

"It's still the same," Heins said of the iPhone. "It is a sequential way to work and that's not what people want today anymore. They want multitasking." RIM's new software allows users to have multiple applications open like on a desktop, he said, noting that with BlackBerry you don't have to close an application to check an email. "We're changing it for the better because we're allowing people to



In this Jan. 30, 2013 file photo, the BlackBerry Z10 smartphone is displayed in New York. Apple's iPhone is outdated, according to Research In Motion Ltd. chief executive Thorsten Heins.

Associated Press

peak in the hub," Heins said. Heins said the iPhone was revolutionary five years ago, but he said it's now "just kind of sitting there."

Apple spokeswoman Natalie Kerris declined comment. But the delay in selling the new keypad BlackBerry, called the Q10, complicates RIM's efforts to hang on to customers tempted by the iPhone and a range of devices running Google Inc.'s Android operating system. Even as the BlackBerry has fallen behind rivals in recent years, many BlackBerry users have stayed loyal because they prefer a physical keyboard over the touch screen found on the iPhone and most Android devices. But the temptations to switch grow with each additional delay, despite favorable reviews for new system.

Heins said the Q10 keyboard version BlackBerry is just not ready yet and said part of the reason is out of his control.

"It's our job to deliver the right software package and the right software quality to the carriers," he said. "Then it is on the carriers to decide how intense they want their testing cycle to be and that really can range from a few weeks to three months."

U.S. carriers reportedly haven't made testing a priority because RIM, which is based in Waterloo, Ontario, has dramatically lost market share. The U.S. has been one market in which RIM has been particularly hurting, even as the company is doing well overseas. According to research firm IDC, shipments of BlackBerry phones plummeted from 46 percent of the U.S. market in 2008 to 2 percent in 2012. The iPhone and Android now dominate.

Heins said the company has to regain market share in the U.S. for BlackBerry to be successful.

"You got to win here to win everywhere else," he

said. "That's just the way it is. We've lost market share quite a bit, to put it mildly, and we absolutely need BlackBerry 10 to turn us around." Heins said initial sales in other countries are encouraging, but he could not release numbers ahead of RIM's earnings report next Thursday. "I get more and more excited every day," he said. "I really have to make sure I stay grounded and I don't lose my sense for reality. But for the whole company this is so important to finally be here, and to see people buying it, after we were told 30 months ago when we started that two quarters down the road we would be bankrupt, we would be out of business." □

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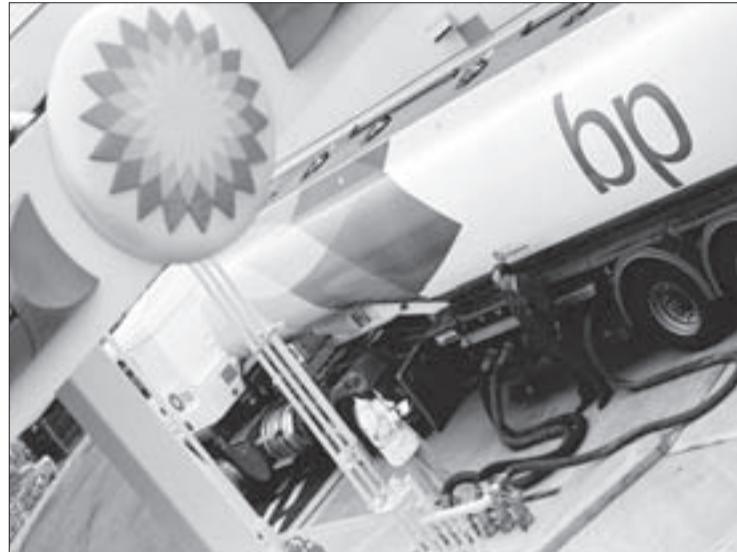
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BP announces \$8 billion share buyback

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Oil company BP said Friday it will buy back \$8 billion of shares using money it earned by selling its stake

that gave it \$12.5 billion pounds in cash and a stake in the state-owned oil company. The deal allowed Rosneft, the Russian oil giant, to tighten its grip on the country's lucrative



A BP fuel tanker makes a delivery to a BP service station.
(Handout Photo)

in Russian producer TNK-BP. The announcement came after BP completed the sale of its 50 percent interest in TNK-BP to Moscow-based Rosneft, in a deal

oil industry.

"We expect our stake in Rosneft will generate long-term value for BP and its shareholders," said BP Chairman Carl-Henric

Svanberg. "But this buy-back program should also allow our shareholders to see benefits in the near-term from the value we have realized by reshaping our Russian business."

BP shares rose 2.8 percent Friday to 461.80.

BP invested \$8 billion in cash, shares and assets when it formed TNK-BP in 2003 and received a total of \$19 billion in dividends over the next decade. The sale of BP's stake in TNK-BP pushed the British company's stake in Rosneft to 19.75 percent, making it the firm's biggest private shareholder.

The deal allowed Rosneft, already the country's top oil producer, to increase its global profile and become the world's largest publicly traded producer of oil and gas, in terms of output. It pushed past ExxonMobil, whose daily output at 4.2 million barrels of oil was below the expanded Rosneft's projected 4.6 million

at the time of the deal. Rosneft was created out of the former Soviet state oil and gas authority in 1993 and expanded over the past decade as the government increased its control over Russia's oil industry. The company is 75 percent owned by the government, with the remaining shares traded on the market or owned by the company and its managers. "BP is moving on to the next phase of its business in Russia, becoming the largest private shareholder in Rosneft, Russia's leading oil company," Chief Executive Robert Dudley said. "In the process we have also released cash equivalent to at least six years of BP's anticipated future dividends from TNK-BP."

The buy-back is expected to take between 12 and 18 months to complete. BP intends to keep \$4.48 billion received from the sale of its interest in TNK-BP to reduce debt. □

CNOOC posts 9.3% profit dip on high costs

KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — State-owned CNOOC, which made China's biggest-ever overseas energy acquisition last year, said Friday that annual profit fell 9.3 percent because of higher costs for exploration and for operating in Canada's oil sands.

CNOOC Ltd.'s \$15.1 billion purchase of Canadian energy producer Nexen was part of a broader trend of Chinese resources companies making foreign acquisitions to get better access to key commodities as well as become global competitors.

The Beijing-based company, China's main offshore energy producer, said that while oil and gas sales grew last year because of "stable growth" in production, it suffered from higher expenses to operate and maintain existing wells.

Foreign operating expenses, in particular, jumped by a quarter because a higher proportion of production came from the Canada's tar sands, where costs to extract oil are significantly higher than conventional crude projects.

CNOOC also said exploration costs rose 73 percent to 9 billion yuan as it continued to survey and drill more test wells in China's offshore oil fields.

The company said profit fell to 63.7 billion yuan (\$10.2 billion) in 2012 from 70.3 billion yuan the year before. Revenue climbed 3 percent to 247.6 billion yuan. "The company will continue its efforts to control costs, enhance profitability and create greater value for our shareholders," chief executive Li Fanrong said in a statement.

"Looking ahead into 2013, we will carefully cope with the uncertainties of the world economy and the unstable international geopolitical situation."

Li said the acquisition of Nexen was an "important milestone on the company's road to internationalization. □

Tiffany 4Q net income rises less than 1 pct

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiffany says its fourth-quarter net income edged up less than 1 percent, but still beat Wall Street predictions as strong customer demand in Asia for its pricey baubles offset weakness in the U.S. The upscale jewelry company also offered an annual sales outlook that topped analysts' estimates, and its shares rose more than 4 percent in premarket trading Friday. The results, which include the critical holiday season, show Tiffany's resilience even as it faces challenges in the U.S. and a fiscal crisis in Europe. For the quarter ended Jan. 31, Tiffany earned \$179.6 million, or \$1.40 per share. Revenue rose 4 percent to \$1.24 billion. Analysts polled by FactSet expected earnings of \$1.36 per share on \$1.25 billion in revenue.

"While financial results in fiscal 2012 were disappointing due to lower-than expected sales growth and

pressures on gross margin, we continued to maintain a longer term focus on strengthening global awareness of the Tiffany & Co. brand," Michael J. Kowalski, Tiffany's chairman and chief executive officer, said in a statement. Total sales in the Americas region increased 2 percent to \$620 million in the fourth quarter and 2 percent to \$1.8 billion in the full year. The area represents 48 percent of last year's global revenue. Revenue at stores open at least a year declined 2 percent in both the quarter and full year on a constant exchange rate basis. Sales in the New York flagship store dropped 3 percent in both the quarter and full year, while that figure dropped 2 percent for its branch locations for both periods.

In the Asia-Pacific region, total sales rose 13 percent to \$254 million in the fourth quarter and 8 percent to \$810 million in the full year. The region represents 21 percent of world-

wide sales. On a constant exchange rate basis, total sales rose 10 percent in the fourth quarter due to sales growth in Greater China and in other markets and rose 8 percent in the full

reflecting a weaker Japanese yen versus the U.S. dollar and increased 4 percent to \$639 million or 17 percent of worldwide sales in the full year. However, on a constant exchange



Jewelry retailer Tiffany & Co. said Friday, March 22, 2013, its fourth-quarter net income edged up less than 1 percent, but managed to beat Wall Street predictions.

(AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

year. On that basis, revenue at stores opened at least a year rose 6 percent in the quarter and 2 percent for the full year. Total sales in Japan declined 6 percent to \$192 million in the fourth-quarter,

rate basis, total sales rose 2 percent in the quarter and 6 percent in the full year. On that basis, revenue at stores opened at least a year rose 2 percent and 7 percent in the quarter and full year respectively. □

Stocks rise on Wall Street aided by corporate earnings

STEVE ROTHWELL

Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Strong company earnings boosted stocks on Wall Street Friday. Investors also saw a chance to add to their holdings after declines earlier in the week.

Nike reported a surge in quarterly profit, sending its stock price to a record. Tiffany topped earnings predictions, boosted by demand from customers in Asia.

Investors were also drawn by a pause in the market's big run-up. The Standard & Poor's 500 index logged its second weekly decline of the year, despite Friday's gains.

The damper on U.S. stock markets was caused by another worrisome chapter in Europe's debt crisis, and some disappointing corporate news.

The Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus, a banking haven, is struggling to devise a plan to avoid financial collapse. Stocks were also weighed down on Thursday by weak sales from Oracle. That news brought down technology stocks.

FedEx ended the week 10 percent lower after it reported a drop in quarterly profit and cut its annual earnings forecast on Wednesday. The company is a gauge of the economy because so many shoppers and businesses use its shipping services.

On Friday, investors took advantage of the market's down week and ramped up their stock buying.

A resilient global economy has encouraged investors to pick up stocks on any dips, said Ron Florence, managing director of investment strategy at Wells Fargo Private Bank. "We still have an astonishing amount of money sitting on the sidelines," said Florence.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 90.54 points, or 0.6 percent, to 14,512.03 Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.09 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,556.89. The Nasdaq composite gained 22.40 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,245.

Nike shares hit an all-time high, rising \$5.93, or 11 percent, to \$59.53 after the company reported a 55 percent spike in quarterly net income.

Tiffany rose \$1.32, or 1.9 percent, to \$69.23 after its strong fourth-quarter earnings.

For the week, though, the S&P 500 was seven points, or 0.3 percent, lower than

it was at the start of trading on Monday.

The index last logged a weekly decline Feb. 22, falling 0.3 percent, after investors were spooked by the

run-up is now due because gains this year overstate the improvement in the economy, said Terry Sandven, chief equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Man-

Treasury note rose to 1.93 percent from 1.92 percent. Among other stocks making big moves Friday:

— Micron Technology rose 97 cents, or 10.7 percent, to \$10.05 despite reporting a loss in its fiscal second-quarter later Thursday. The chipmaker said that revenue grew 3 percent, to \$2.08 billion, better than analysts had expected.

— Anacor Pharmaceuticals Inc. climbed \$1.24, or 25.6 percent, to \$6.08 Friday, after the drug developer reported strong data from a mid-stage study of a potential chronic rash treatment.

— Marin Software, a marketing software company, rose \$2.26, or 16.1 percent, to \$16.26 on its market debut. The San Francisco-based company raised \$105 million in its initial public offering.

— AK Steel Holding fell 16 cents, or 4.6 percent, to \$3.31, after projecting a larger-than-expected first-quarter loss because a previously expected seasonal increase in demand for steel hasn't materialized. □



Trader Fred Reimer works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

minutes from the Federal Reserve's January policy meeting. The minutes revealed disagreement over how long to keep buying bonds in an effort to boost the economy.

The Dow shed a fraction of a percentage point this week.

A pause in the stock market

agement.

The biggest risk to the market run-up this year will come when the Fed faces increasing pressure to end its stimulus program. That could happen if the economy continues to improve and stock markets rise, said Sandven.

The yield on the 10-year

Darden 3Q profit falls but tops Street's view

NEW YORK (AP) — Darden Restaurants' third-quarter net income dropped 18 percent, as it dealt with soft sales at Red Lobster. The Florida-based company says sales at its Olive Garden, Red Lobster and LongHorn Steakhouse res-

taurants open at least a year fell a combined 4.6 percent.

Darden Restaurants Inc. has struggled to keep its brands relevant as diners head to chains like Chipotle and Panera, where many feel they're getting

restaurant-quality food without paying as much.

Darden said Friday that it earned \$134.4 million, or \$1.02 per share, for the three months ended Feb. 24. That's down from \$164.1 million, or \$1.25 per share, a year earlier.

Analysts expected \$1.01 per share.

Revenue rose 5 percent to \$2.26 billion from \$2.16 billion, meeting Wall Street's view.

The company reaffirmed its fiscal 2013 earnings forecast. □

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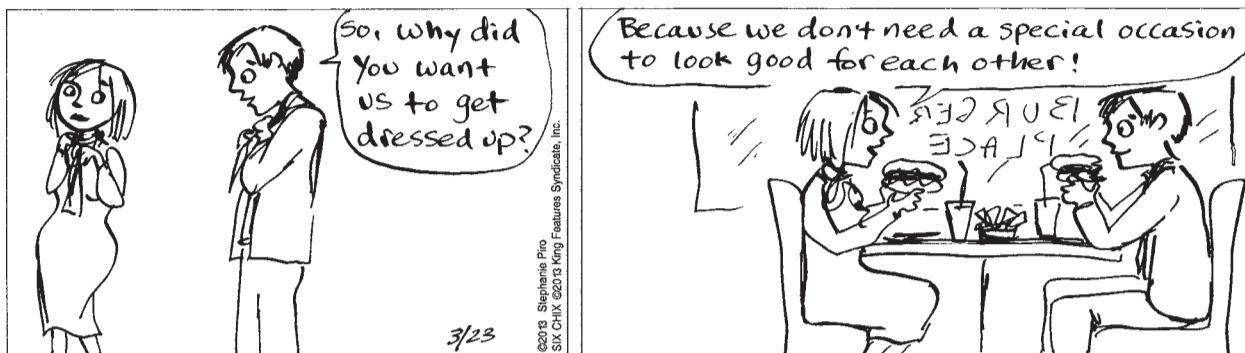
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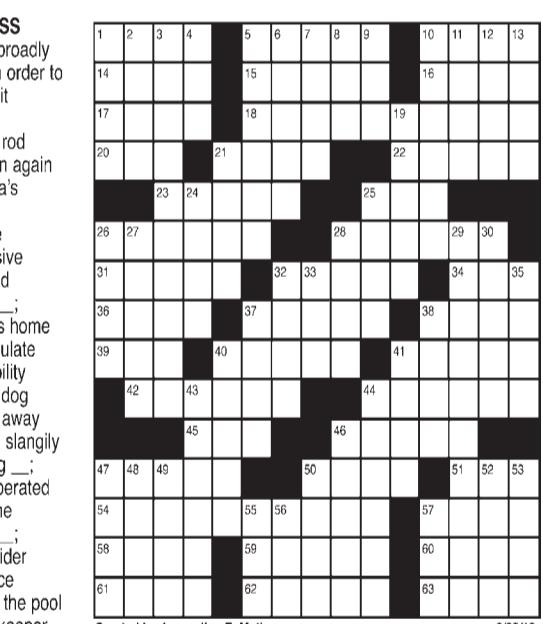
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3/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	3	2	9	8	1	7	4	6
7	9	1	2	4	6	3	5	8
4	8	6	5	7	3	2	1	9
1	2	8	4	5	9	6	7	3
6	5	3	1	2	7	9	8	4
9	4	7	6	3	8	1	2	5
2	6	9	8	1	5	4	3	7
8	7	4	3	9	2	5	6	1
3	1	5	7	6	4	8	9	2

Yesterday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/23/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

F	I	G	H	T	T	A	B	S	S	I	L	O
L	O	N	E	R	O	V	A	D	O	R		
A	W	A	R	E	T	I	D	E	R	E	D	
P	A	T	E	N	T	E	D	E	N	R	A	G
S	T	E	M							S	P	O
C	A	N	Y	O	N	P	A	S	T	E	L	E
A	R	E	N	E	W	E	R	S	S	A	S	S
R	E	A	M	T	O	D	A	T	A	T	A	
S	A	R	A	H	M	A	S	O	N	K	E	
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S	H	I	N	E	S	D	U	L	C	I	M	E
N	O	N	E	I	C	E	D	A	S	I	D	E
E	V	E	R	T	O	A	D	S	I	G		
R	E	D	S	S	P	R	Y	E	N	E		

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- 40 Spacious hotel 49 with; quarters
 27 Peruses 50 support
 28 Good-hearted 51 Worth, Texas
 29 Fundamental 52 Dollar bills
 30 Freeway exits 53 Ham or veal
 32 Therefore 54 Fool; chump
 33 Take the prize 55 Skater
 35 Pillar 56 Babilonia
 37 Carry 57 Brit's raincoat
 38 Extra amount

Out of 1 gram of marijuana, a 'manufactured misdemeanor'

JIM DWYER

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK — For marijuana smokers in the right neighborhoods, there is no need to go out for supplies. A dealer-businessman will come right to the door, sit at the dining room table and open a box that looks as if it could be used to display herbal tea choices in restaurants. This particular case, however, is used to show varieties of cannabis — weed — and the businessman will annotate the flavor and potency of his offerings. Bought and smoked behind closed doors, the marijuana in such transactions has almost no risk of attracting attention from law enforcement. That was not the system used by Joseph Griffin, then 18, one summer night in the East New York section of Brooklyn. He walked a few blocks down Herkimer Street, made a purchase and headed back to smoke it at home. "The plainclothes officers pulled up, and they asked me where I was going," Griffin said. "I said, 'Home.' They jumped out. They was patting me down. He went into my pocket and found it. Then they put the handcuffs on."

Griffin spent the night in one jail or another, taken from the precinct station to central booking and then to the courthouse in Brooklyn. Up to that point, his case had absorbed the energy of two police officers, a desk sergeant, a clerk who processed his paperwork and fingerprints, a driver who transported him to booking, other officers to secure him in the pen awaiting his appearance, a Legal Aid Society lawyer, an assistant

district attorney, a court clerk and a court reporter to transcribe the proceedings. Also, a judge, who instantly dismissed the case. How much marijuana did Griffin have in his pocket that night? "I had a blunt," he said. Just one? "Yes," he said. How much did it cost? "Five dollars," he said. A blunt, or marijuana cigarette, contains about 1 gram of marijuana, about the weight of a dash of salt. □



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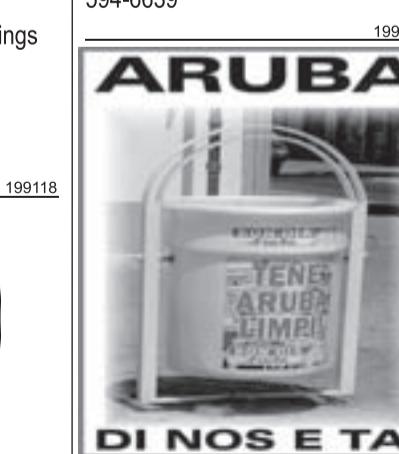
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U.S. orders its nuclear sites to upgrade vents

MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. nuclear power plants must upgrade ventilation systems at 31 reactors with designs similar to those that melted down two years ago in Japan, under a Nuclear Regulatory Commission order that stops short of requiring filtered vents, as some safety advocates and NRC's staff had urged.

The filters are required in Japan and much of Europe, but U.S. utilities say they are unnecessary and expensive.

The order issued Tuesday requires U.S. operators to upgrade vents to ensure they remain operable even during severe accidents, such as the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that crippled Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. The tsunami sent three of the plant's reactors into meltdown in



In this Jan. 14, 2013 file photo, Alison Macfarlane, the chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, talks about her tour of the troubled San Onofre Nuclear Power Station in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

Associated Press

the world's worst nuclear crisis in a quarter-century. The commission said the order will improve

safety and help prevent radioactive particles from escaping into the atmosphere after a Japan-

style meltdown.

The commission also directed its staff to study a rule requiring filters at two dozen nuclear sites with 31 boiling water reactors similar to the ones in Japan that melted down. The commission also will consider a performance-based approach that would use existing systems to achieve similar results to limit release of radioactive materials. The rule would not be finalized until 2017. NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane said the commission reached its decision after months of review, as the five-member panel considered a host of post-Fukushima safety reforms. The NRC issued several orders last year on the first anniversary of the disaster, including a requirement that plants install or improve venting systems to limit core damage in a serious accident.

"I compliment my colleagues and the staff for their sustained efforts on this issue and for taking a hard look at a complex matter," Macfarlane said in a statement. Macfarlane took over the agency last summer after its former chairman, Gregory Jaczko, resigned amid complaints about an unyielding management style that

fellow commissioners and agency employees described as bullying.

Macfarlane, a geologist, has pledged a strong commitment to collegiality since taking over the agency last July.

Commission records show she and commissioner George Apostolakis, both Democrats, supported the filter requirement but were outvoted by the three other commissioners.

Edwin Lyman, a nuclear expert at the Union of Concerned Scientists, a watchdog group, called the commission's decision disappointing.

"We think the (NRC) staff made a sound case" for the filter requirement, Lyman said. "We don't think we need more study." Lyman and other critics blamed the decision on intense lobbying against the rule by the nuclear industry.

"The level of industry opposition really was a force that derailed the commission's decision-making," Lyman said.

Anthony Pietrangelo, senior vice president of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry's largest lobbying group, hailed the NRC vote.

"With this direction to the NRC staff, the commission is addressing the central issue: What is the most effective way to filter containment vents to reduce radiation releases in extreme situations where a reactor may be damaged?" Pietrangelo said. The nuclear group has said that filters—which cost anywhere from \$16 million to \$40 million per reactor—may work in some situations, but not all. Rep. Edward Markey, a Democrat, a frequent critic of the nuclear industry and the NRC, blasted the decision, which he called irresponsible.

"The NRC has abdicated its responsibility to ensure public health and safety in New England and across the country," said Markey, who is running for Senate in a special election to fill the seat vacated by Secretary of State John Kerry. □

Study finds mounting mercury threat in Peru Amazon

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A study of mercury contamination in a southeastern Peruvian jungle area ravaged by illegal gold mining found unsafe levels of the toxic metal in 78 percent of adults in the regional capital and in 60 percent of fish sold at markets.

The study by the Carnegie Institution for Science calls the contamination a "grave and mounting threat to public health."

Mercury is a byproduct of artisanal gold mining as practiced by the estimated 40,000 miners in the Madre de Dios region.

In discussing the overall human impact, the newly released study said that the population segment most vulnerable to mercury poisoning had the highest average mercury levels: women of childbearing age. As a neurotoxin, mercury can cause severe, permanent brain damage to an unborn child.

The study, led by Luis E. Fernandez of Stanford University, said mercury levels increased in 10 of 11 fish species studied in 2009 and then again in 2012.

Peru is the world's fifth largest gold producer, and the

government has made scant progress trying to halt the illegal mining and formalize the miners.

Unlike formal mining that occurs in the Andean highlands, the mining in Madre de Dios consists chiefly of scouring riverbeds and alluvial deposits for flecks of gold that adhere to mercury in a crude amalgamation process.

About 35 metric tons of mercury is dispersed into the air and waters of the region annually, exposing not just miners to the metal but also city dwellers in Puerto Maldonado, the regional capital that is one of the urban areas where mercury vapor is released by "gold shops" that buy and refine gold.

In addition to the mercury contamination, the mining has denuded some 70 square miles (18,000 hectares) of formerly virgin rainforest in one of the world's most biologically diverse regions. □

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'Veronica Mars' campaign rattles movie industry

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After years of hope, stalled efforts and studio frustration, "Veronica Mars" creator Rob Thomas watched a long-held dream come to fruition in a sudden digital rush.

"There were a few minutes of nothing happening," he says.

"Then in an hour, watching that ticker go was mesmerizing. I had an attention span of, like, four seconds because everything on my computer screen I wanted to look at at the same time. The Twitter feed was going crazy, the emails were going crazy and then watching that Kickstarter total go up."

Thomas last week launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund a movie of his cult TV show, which was canceled after three seasons in 2007. It met its stated goal of raising \$2 million in less than 11 hours, meaning it would be greenlit to begin shooting this summer. It's surpassed \$3.7 million with more than

two weeks still to go.

The resounding, immediate success of the crowd-funding campaign sent shockwaves through the movie business. Films had found much-needed financial support on Kickstarter before, but "Veronica Mars" is different. It's a studio project, owned by Warner Bros., which produced the show.

The money given by the fervent fans of "Veronica Mars," which starred Kristen Bell as a teenage private eye, will go not to a filmmaker operating on his own, but one with the distribution and marketing muscle of a very large corporation—just one that hadn't previously been convinced to bankroll a "Veronica Mars" film.

Were donating fans spurring a goliath to action, or its unwitting pawns?

The wide majority of "Veronica Mars" fans couldn't care less. They will get the movie they craved, as well as the proud feeling of having played an essential role in the show's resurrection.



In this July 17, 2006 file photo, Executive producer, Rob Thomas, left, answers questions about the upcoming season of "Veronica Mars" as actress Kristen Bell looks on during The CW's Television Critics Association press conference in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

Maryland fan Matt Clipp typified the eager contributors, writing: "I am MORE than happy to donate \$100 to this project. This movie has been a dream of mine ever since the series ended back in 2007. **LET'S GET THIS THING MADE, 'VERONICA MARS' FANS!**"

While the emotional side is surely the biggest motivation for most donors, they're also paying for tangible goods. Rewards range from an emailed copy of the script (\$10 contributions), all the way up to a speaking part in the film as a waiter who says, "Your check, sir," (a single \$10,000 donation). All money is refunded if for any reason the film doesn't get made.

"Most of the people who are pledging are getting in at the \$35 and \$50 range where they're getting a download of the movie, a T-shirt, a copy of the script at \$35, and all of that plus the DVD and the making-of documentary at the \$50 price point," says Thomas. "So I don't think anyone's being taken advantage of. I feel like the rewards are worth it."

Typically in film financing, any investor has the chance to earn his money back and potentially share in the profits. Slate claimed the "Veronica Mars" project sets a "terrible precedent."

Joss Whedon, whose devoted fanboy following is similar, if larger, than Thomas', said that he reacted in "unfettered joy" at the "Veronica Mars" Kickstarter campaign. But Whedon, who realizes he'll now be hounded to follow suit with another movie of his can-

celed cult TV series "Firefly," acknowledged some trepidation about the financial arrangement for fans. "I understand that it feels not as pure, and that the presence of a studio makes it disingenuous somehow," Whedon told BuzzFeed. "But people clearly understood what was happening and just wanted to see more of the thing they love. To give them that opportunity doesn't feel wrong. If it was a truly wrong move, I don't think it would have worked."

Thomas says he's been in daily contact with Warner Bros., which approved the plan in advance. The studio hasn't sought to flaunt its involvement.

Executives for its digital wing, which is planning a limited theatrical release followed by video-on-demand early next year, declined to comment. Kickstarter co-founder Yancey Strickler, too, declined to comment when asked through a spokesman about whether corporate involvement compromises Kickstarter's mission. Kickstarter takes a 5 percent fee from money raised for successful projects. Since being founded in 2009, Kickstarter has raised more than \$500 million for some 35,000 creative projects. The "Veronica Mars" film is far and away its most lucrative movie project.

Earlier this year, the documentary short film "Inocente" became the first Kickstarter-backed Oscar-winner, having raised about \$52,000 on the platform. Kickstarter has drawn several big Hollywood names, including David Fincher (a producer of an animated project that raised more than \$440,000) and Charlie Kaufman (whose short animated film "Anomalisa" brought in \$406,000).

Some have derided Kickstarter's growing influence (Gawker lamented its "online panhandling"), but few would argue it's been a positive force for getting dozens of films made in an industry landscape that can be brutal for independent filmmakers. □

Tom Cruise sets up page on Russian social network

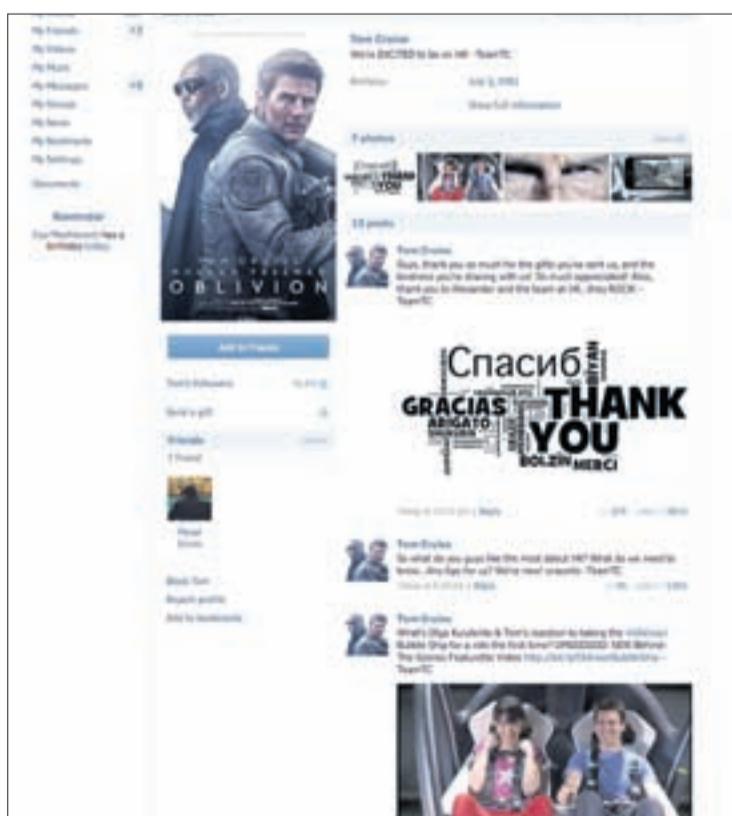
MAX SEDDON

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Tom Cruise has become the first Hollywood star to set up a page on the popular Russian social network Vkontakte.

The "Mission Impossible" actor's page appeared Friday, announced by a message on Twitter saying "See you there!" in Russian. His profile picture is a poster for his new science fiction film "Oblivion," which comes out in Russia on April 11, two weeks before it opens in the U.S.

Cruise's page is a sign of Russia's increasing box office clout. Box office income rose 8 percent last year to \$1.3 billion, the ninth-highest in the world, and is expected to grow 9 percent this year. □



This screen shot provided by the Russian social network Vkontakte shows a page set up by Hollywood star Tom Cruise.

Associated Press

'Croods' stars cringe at sound of their own voices



This March 10, 2013 file photo shows actors Ryan Reynolds, left, and Emma Stone at "The Croods" premiere in New York. Reynolds voices the character Guy and Stone voices the character Eep in the Dreamworks Animation film.

Associated Press

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — They've both helped make millions at the box office and are two of Hollywood's most sought after talents, but "The Croods" voice stars Ryan Reynolds and Emma Stone say they still get self-conscious hearing themselves on film.

"It's like hearing your voice back on a voicemail," said the 24-year-old Stone, who is known for her trademark raspy voice. "I still can't believe I sound like this."

"I can't believe you sound like this either," joked the 36-year-old Reynolds in the same recent interview. He went on to confess that "everyone feels that way — like there's some solace in that. I think everyone feels like that when they hear their own voice. (It sounds) kind of shrill and brutal."

They're going to have to get used to it. The animated "Croods" opened Friday on more than 4,000 domestic

screens amid predictions it will be the weekend's No. 1 movie.

The 3-D film, which also stars Nicolas Cage, takes place in prehistoric times and focuses on the world's first family, the Croods. Stone is a teen girl named Eep, who longs to leave her cave and see what's out there. Her father, voiced by Cage, is overly protective. One day they meet a guy named Guy, played by Reynolds. The Croods and Guy venture out together and learn about the world.

This is the first time Reynolds and Stone have done an animated movie, and they hope it rates with some of their own childhood favorites. Reynolds says he was a fan of the TV show "Thunder Cats" and adds "Smurfs" was pretty good, too. "Not a turn on but a good cartoon nonetheless."

Stone's animated faves? "I loved 'Peter Pan' and 'Alice in Wonderland.'" □

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Forecasting Fox



DAVID BROOKS
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In 2006, Philip E. Tetlock published a landmark book called "Expert Political Judgment."

While his findings obviously don't apply to me, Tetlock demonstrated that pundits and experts are terrible at making predictions.

But Tetlock is also interested in how people can get better at making forecasts. His subsequent work helped prompt people at one of the government's most creative agencies, the Advanced Research Projects Agency, to hold a forecasting tournament to see if competition could spur better predictions.

In fall 2011, the agency asked a series of short-term questions about foreign affairs, such as whether certain countries will leave the euro, whether North Korea will re-enter arms talks, or whether Vladimir Putin and Dmitry Medvedev would switch jobs. They hired a consulting firm to run an experimental control group against which the competitors could be benchmarked.

Five teams entered the tournament, from places like MIT, Michigan and Maryland. Tetlock and his wife, the decision scientist Barbara Mellers, helped form a Penn/Berkeley team, which bested the competition and surpassed the benchmarks by 60 percent in Year 1.

How did they make such accurate predictions? In the first place, they identified better forecasters. It turns out you can give people tests that usefully measure how open-minded they are. For example, if you spent \$1.10 on a baseball glove and a ball, and the glove cost \$1 more than the ball, how much did the ball cost? Most people want to say that the glove cost \$1 and the ball 10 cents. But some people doubt their original answer and realize the ball actually costs 5 cents.

Tetlock and company gathered 3,000 participants. Some got put into teams with training, some got put into teams without. Some worked alone. Some worked in prediction markets. Some did probabilistic thinking and some did more narrative thinking. The teams with training that engaged in probabilistic thinking performed best. The training involved learning some of the lessons included in Daniel Kahneman's great work, "Thinking, Fast and Slow." For example, they were taught to alternate between taking the inside view

and the outside view. Suppose you're asked to predict whether the government of Egypt will fall. You can try to learn everything you can about Egypt. That's the inside view. Or you can ask about the category. Of all Middle Eastern authoritarian governments, what percentage fall in a given year? That outside view is essential.

Most important, participants were taught to turn hunches into probabilities. Then they had online discussions with members of their team adjusting the probabilities, as often as every day. People in the discussions wanted to avoid the embarrassment of being proved wrong.

In these discussions, hedgehogs disappeared and foxes prospered. That is, having grand theories about, say, the nature of modern China was not useful. Being able to look at a narrow question from many vantage points and quickly readjust the probabilities was tremendously useful. The Penn/Berkeley team also came up with an algorithm to weigh the best performers. Let's say the top three forecasters all believe that the chances that Italy will stay in the euro zone are 0.7 (with 1 being a certainty it will and 0 being a certainty it won't). If those three forecasters arrive at their judgments using different information and analysis, then the algorithm synthesizes their combined judgment into a 0.9. It makes the collective judgment more extreme.

This algorithm has been extremely good at predicting results. Tetlock has tried to use his own intuition to beat the algorithm but hasn't succeeded.

In the second year of the tournament, Tetlock and collaborators skimmed off the top 2 percent of forecasters across experimental conditions, identifying 60 top performers and randomly assigning them into five teams of 12 each. These "super forecasters" also delivered a far-above-average performance in Year 2. Apparently, forecasting skill cannot only be taught, it can be replicated.

Tetlock is now recruiting for Year 3. (You can match wits against the world by visiting www.good-judgmentproject.com.) He believes this kind of process may help depolarize politics. If you take Republicans and Democrats and ask them to make a series of narrow predictions, they'll have to put aside their grand notions and think clearly about the imminently falsifiable.

If I were President Barack Obama or John Kerry, I'd want the Penn/Berkeley predictions on my desk. The intelligence communities may hate it. High-status old vets have nothing to gain and much to lose by having their analysis measured against a bunch of outsiders. But this sort of work could probably help policymakers better anticipate what's around the corner. □



Trouble On Treasure Island



PAUL KRUGMAN
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A couple of years ago, the journalist Nicholas Shaxson published a fascinating, chilling book titled "Treasure Islands," which explained how international tax havens – which are also, as the author pointed out, "secrecy jurisdictions" where many rules don't apply – undermine economies around the world. Not only do they bleed revenues from cash-strapped governments and enable corruption; they distort the flow of capital, helping to feed ever-bigger financial crises. One question Shaxson didn't get into much, however, is what happens when a secrecy jurisdiction itself goes bust. That's the story of Cyprus right now. And whatever the outcome for Cyprus itself (hint: It's not likely to be happy), the Cyprus mess shows just how unreformed the world banking system remains, almost five years after the global financial crisis began.

So, about Cyprus: You might wonder why anyone cares about a tiny nation with an economy not much bigger than that of metropolitan Scranton, Pa. Cyprus is, however, a member of the eurozone, so events there could trigger contagion (for example, bank runs) in larger nations. And there's something else: While the Cypriot economy may be tiny, it's a surprisingly large financial player, with a banking sector four or five times as big as you

might expect given the size of its economy.

Why are Cypriot banks so big? Because the country is a tax haven where corporations and wealthy foreigners stash their money. Officially, 37 percent of the deposits in Cypriot banks come from nonresidents; the true number, once you take into account wealthy expatriates and people who are only nominally resident in Cyprus, is surely much higher. Basically, Cyprus is a place where people, especially but not only Russians, hide their wealth from both the taxmen and the regulators. Whatever gloss you put on it, it's basically about money-laundering.

And the truth is that much of the wealth never moved at all; it just became invisible. On paper, for example, Cyprus became a huge investor in Russia – much bigger than Germany, whose economy is hundreds of times larger. In reality, of course, this was just "roundtripping" by Russians using the island as a tax shelter.

Unfortunately for the Cypriots, enough real money came in to finance some seriously bad investments, as their banks bought Greek debt and lent into a vast real estate bubble. Sooner or later, things were bound to go wrong. And now they have.

Now what? There are some strong similarities between Cyprus now and Iceland (a similar-size economy) a few years back. Like Cyprus now, Iceland had a huge banking sector, swollen by foreign deposits, that was simply too big to bail out. Iceland's response was essentially to let its banks go bust, wiping out those foreign investors, while protecting domestic depositors – and the results weren't too bad. Indeed, Iceland, with a far lower unemployment rate than most of Europe, has weathered the crisis

surprisingly well.

Unfortunately, Cyprus' response to its crisis has been a hopeless muddle. In part, this reflects the fact that it no longer has its own currency, which makes it dependent on decision makers in Brussels and Berlin – decision makers who haven't been willing to let banks openly fail.

But it also reflects Cyprus' own reluctance to accept the end of its money-laundering business; its leaders are still trying to limit losses to foreign depositors in the vain hope that business as usual can resume, and they were so anxious to protect the big money that they tried to limit foreigners' losses by expropriating small domestic depositors. As it turned out, however, ordinary Cypriots were outraged, the plan was rejected and, at this point, nobody knows what will happen.

My guess is that, in the end, Cyprus will adopt something like the Icelandic solution, but unless it ends up being forced off the euro in the next few days – a real possibility – it may first waste a lot of time and money on half-measures, trying to avoid facing up to reality while running up huge debts to wealthier nations. We'll see.

But step back for a minute and consider the incredible fact that tax havens like Cyprus, the Cayman Islands and many more are still operating pretty much the same way that they did before the global financial crisis. Everyone has seen the damage that runaway bankers can inflict, yet much of the world's financial business is still routed through jurisdictions that let bankers sidestep even the mild regulations we've put in place. Everyone is crying about budget deficits, yet corporations and the wealthy are still freely using tax havens to avoid paying taxes like the little people. □

Favorites in a showcase for new filmmakers

MANOHLA DARGIS

A.O. SCOTT

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NEW YORK – Killers and clowns, the quick and the dead roam through New Directors/New Films, the annual showcase of promising and confirmed cinematic talent that began on Wednesday.

Now in its 42nd year, the series was established to present work from emerging filmmakers from across the globe back when such festivals were rare. A joint venture of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Museum of Modern Art, where all the screenings will be held, it remains a laudatory New York event.

These days, though, what's sometimes missing is a diversity of cinema, not just of countries. As a result this now largely digital festival can feel padded with titles that seem to have been chosen because they weren't directed by a European or another white guy. Just as bad, some also seem to have been created with art-film software: Cue the overlong take of someone staring into space. Such movies seem made for programmers, and it's worth noting that this is the same series that played Steven Spielberg's "Sugarland Express" (1974) and George Miller's "Road Warrior" (1982). That said, there is much to cheer, and here are our picks for the first week.

'THE ACT OF KILLING' – In 1965 and 1966 an estimated 500,000 Indonesians died in anti-Communist massacres after a failed military coup. The killings are barely remembered in the West and remain a source of bitterness and denial in Indonesia. A conventional documentary might have addressed this atrocity and its aftermath with the usual mixture of interviews and archival footage. The American filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer takes a dramatically different approach, inviting a few unrepentant members of death squads to re-enact their crimes, using techniques and themes

of popular movie genres. The resulting film is surreal, sometimes hilarious and ultimately extremely disturbing, partly because it destabilizes our sense of the boundary between make-believe violence and its real-world counterpart. The amorality of the killers, as they dress up in costumes or matter-of-factly stage-manage scenes of gruesome brutality, is repellent but also curiously fascinating, as Hannah Arendt's observation about the "ba-

another friend's home but appear to have become lost. Yet while they don't seem concerned, a sense of foreboding closes in around them as ominously as the woods. Jazmin Lopez, making an estimable feature debut, reveals the group's destination slowly, teasing out the mystery step by seemingly indifferent step, filling in the blanks with scraps of dialogue and a cleverly malfunctioning tape recorder. At once a fairy tale, a puzzle film and

in this case hinged to the D.C. Beltway sniper attacks from 2002. Directed by Alexandre Moors, a French filmmaker living in Brooklyn, it explores the relationship between the serial killers John A. Muhammad (Isaiah Washington, commanding and frightening) and Lee Boyd Malvo (a poignant Tequan Richmond), including those strange hours before they climbed into a blue Caprice Chevrolet to begin their murderous rampage. Here the slow drip,

filthy conditions, to sustain morale among his fellow crew members and to get along with their captors. Meanwhile, back in Denmark, the shipping company chief executive (Soren Malling), who prides himself on being a tough negotiator and a disciplined leader, finds his confidence undermined by a situation over which he has almost no control.

Days turn to weeks as the boss, following the advice of a consultant, haggles for the lives of his employees with the pirates' spokesman. Lindholm, a writer for the much praised series "Borgen," observes the unfolding drama with a detached, procedural eye, and manages to convey intense tedium without reproducing it. He also invites you to think about the meaning of the hijacking – as an act of violence, a test of manhood and an episode of class warfare in a time of globalization – without lecturing or preaching.

'THE SHINE OF DAY' – The directors Tizza Covi and Rainer Frimmel open "The Shine of Day" with a man, Philipp (Philipp Hochmair), taking portraits in a photo booth while dressed in costume. A successful theater actor working largely in Hamburg and Vienna, Philipp plays an astonishment of different roles, including that of Woyzeck, the poor German soldier driven to madness and murder. It's a rich if isolated life of roles and masks.

One day Philipp's uncle, a former circus bear wrestler (Walter Saabel) comes to visit, bringing history and an expansive heart with him. The movie initially involves the relationship between these two, a tentative intimacy that grows in surprising ways and eventually encompasses some neighbors. Casually beautiful and seemingly loosely structured, "The Shine of Day" – the title refers to those moments of grace that elevate a routine day – examines the intersection of two lives that together lead to larger, offstage realms. □



An undated handout photo from the film "Leones." New Directors/New Films, the annual showcase of promising and confirmed cinematic talent, in its 42nd year, began Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

(Rei Cine-Petit Film-Viking Film/The New York Times)

nality of evil" is given a chilling postmodern twist.

'LEONES' – One of the highlights of this year's festival, the instantly entrancing "Leones" takes flight in once-upon-a-time fashion with a teenager walking, then running, through a dark, dense forest, occasionally casting looks – worried? scared? – behind her. Soon she catches up with her friends who are slowly, dreamily, wandering in the forest ahead of her. The five are on their leisurely way to

a metaphysical mystery, "Leones" owes a debt to Gus Van Sant in its appreciation for young beauty, its sense of its terrors and its fluid moves. Matias Mesa, a veteran of several of Van Sant's films, including "Elephant," also shot "Leones" – one more reason to see it.

'BLUE CAPRICE' – The opening-night selection and one of the discoveries of this year's Sundance, "Blue Caprice" is a highly stylized, resolutely nonformulaic exploration of pathology,

drip of madness is ignited by rage and fueled by a sense of powerlessness and a soul-annihilating paternalism. There are no answers, only casualties.

'A HIJACKING' – A Danish commercial ship is hijacked by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean, and the director, Tobias Lindholm, turns the incident into a study in comparative claustrophobia. On board, attention centers on the cook (Pilou Asbaek), who struggles, in increasingly